FBIS-MEA-87-075
Monday
20 April 1987
Vol V No 075

Daily Report

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
PRINTED INSIDE COVER

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 APRIL 1987

Israel: Clashes With Palestinians, Hizballah

Israeli helicopters attacked a building on the outskirts of the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp 19 April, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the target was a terrorist base for launching attacks against Israel. .The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited a report that a woman was killed and three were wounded in the raid.

The helicopter raid followed the killing of two IDF soldiers in a clash with a three-man Fatah squad that had infiltrated into northern Israel from southern Lebanon earlier the same day. The Palestinians were all killed in the shoot-out, Jerusalem radio noted, adding that they had apparently come from Sidon and were intending to take hostages in an attempt to secure the release of security prisoners in Israel.

In an earlier development inside Lebanon, IDF and SLA units repulsed an 18 April attack by Hizballah gunmen near Al-Qantarah, a village in the central sector of Israel's security strip, according to Jerusalem radio. Eighteen Hizballah men were killed and four IDF soldiers were wounded, the radio said. The Israelis responded to the Hizballah attack by using artillery and helicopters to bombard Lebanese villages, Beirut radio reported.

In Damascus, a Palestinian official cited by AFP disclosed that Hizballah is negotiating to exchange two captured Israeli soldiers for Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

Preparations for PNC

Eight Palestinian factions concluded their dialogue in Algiers 19 April with an agreement that all of them will attend the PNC session starting the following day, KUNA reported. PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir confirmed that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has abrogated the February 1985 agreement with Jordan but said 'Arafat has rejected demands for the severance of the PLO's relations with Egypt, the agency added. An earlier *Jordan Times* report noted that differences over relations with Egypt did not prevent the factions from concluding a draft agreement to be submitted to the PNC, adding that the draft explicitly rejects U.S. preconditions for the PLO to join the peace process but endorses the idea of a UN-sponsored international conference. Meanwhile, an Egyptian delegation left Cairo to attend the PNC in Algiers, Radio Monte Carlo reported, and PFLP leader George Habash confirmed that he will attend the PNC despite his faction's failure to obtain a ban on relations with Egypt.

However, four Damascus-based Palestinian factions will not attend the PNC, according to Radio Monte Carlo. They are the PFLP-GC, Al-Sa'iqah, the Fatah Uprising Movement, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front. Former PNC speaker Khalid al-Fahum stressed that he will not attend unless the conferees endorse the 25 March Tripoli document and postpone the meeting to allow time for talks with the factions in Damascus. The radio noted that Al-Fahum's stand follows Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's declaration that Syria is willing to receive all Palestinian factions that endorse the Tripoli document. Al-Asad has been invited to attend the PNC, KUNA noted, but the Syrian leader has not publicly responded to 'Arafat's invitation. Meanwhile, Baghdad Voice of PLO carried another strong verbal attack on the Syrian regime in a 17 April commentary, asserting that behind "honeyed words" the Al-Asad regime harbors "venomous poison" for the Palestinian cause.

As for the status of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by Sabri al-Banna (Abu Nidal), KUNA cited the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad's* report that the Palestinian factions in Algiers have rejected representation for the group in the PLO Executive Committee, but they have agreed to allow it to send representatives to the PNC. In a related development, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated that all participants in the Algiers dialogue have agreed to concentrate military operations inside the "occupied territory," according to KUNA, which said this indicates Abu Nidal's group has agreed to this line as it was one of the eight factions in the Algiers dialogue. Palestinian sources cited by the agency had earlier stressed that Abu Nidal's group would only be allowed to return to the PNC if it declared an end to its "external operations."

Libya

PDRY Visitor — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and visiting YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid discussed ways to strengthen the "militant relations" between Libya and the PDRY during talks in Tripoli 17 April, Aden radio reported. Their talks also focused on efforts to unify the PLO, the radio noted, and Al-Bid will attend the forthcoming PNC session in Algiers.

Briton's Release — Col al-Qadhdhafi has intervened to secure the release of jailed British engineer Robert Maxwell, JANA reported 18 April, adding that this move followed an initiative by a visiting British MP.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi denied reports of a coup attempt by the military, the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad* reported 17 April, noting that the prime minister said such rumors were aimed at undermining Sudan's democratic government.

All Libyan troops have withdrawn from southern Sudan, according to a military statement carried by SUNA 17 April. The statement followed a Chadian Government threat to attack any Libyan troops remaining in Sudan, AFP reported.

Maghreb Affairs

Western Sahara — Rabat radio broadcast a letter to King Hassan II from the Moroccan commander in the "southern region" 17 April announcing that work is underway to build a new defense line from the Atlantic coast to link up with lines that will extend 220 km along the Mauritanian border. The Moroccan commander said the new defenses will enable his troops to push back Polisario forces which have moved up the coastline.

An Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Algiers radio 19 April said his country shares Mauritania's concern over the "dangerous situation" created by the construction of a Moroccan defensive wall along the Mauritanian border. The spokesman expressed Algeria's "full solidarity" with Mauritania in the face of this Moroccan action, which is "dangerous for peace" and undermines all current efforts to find a peaceful solution of the conflict in the Western Sahara.

Tunisia — Social Democrat Movement leader Ahmed Mestiri faces charges of organizing an unauthorized meeting of opposition parties to protest recent arrests of Islamic fundamentalists, AFP reported. Mestiri was briefly detained by police 17 April following his party's support for a recent opposition appeal for respect of civil liberties.

Egypt-USSR

During a 15 April news conference cited by *Al-Ahram*, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo confirmed that the USSR has agreed to supply spare parts for Soviet weapons still used by the Egyptian armed forces.

Kuwait

A "responsible" Foreign Ministry source cited by KUNA stressed that Kuwait's leasing tankers from "friendly" countries or registering ships abroad was a "normal" response to "economic and security needs." The source warned against basing "tendentious" reports on such facts or exploiting them to "escalate and complicate" the situation in the Gulf.

In remarks cited by KUNA, Vladimir Petrovskiy, Soviet deputy foreign minister, praised Kuwait's "moderate and balanced" policy and expressed "satisfaction" with the identity of the two countries' views on the need for an international peace conference on the Mideast. Petrovskiy also declared that the USSR is attempting to apply "new thinking" for the political resolution of regional conflicts. The Soviet official, who was addressing a 19 April press conference, noted that Kuwait "warmly welcomed" Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal regarding free navigation in the Gulf.

Following his visit to Kuwait, Petrovskiy began talks in the UAE 20 April, KUNA reported, noting that he is the first senior Soviet official to visit Abu Dhabi since relations were established in 1985.

Syrian-Iranian Relations

The Syrian oil minister arrived in Tehran 19 April, stating that the purpose of his visit was to reaffirm the 1982 oil agreement and to discuss economic ties in order to increase the volume of bilateral trade, Tehran radio reported. The Syrian minister subsequently expressed satisfaction with the progress of talks with his Iranian counterpart, the radio said, and he noted that fresh proposals for improving cooperation were raised during the meeting. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam subsequently arrived in Damascus for talks on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region, the radio disclosed.

Afghanistan

The Soviet Union will take "every necessary measure" to stop violations of its borders, an 18 April TASS statement warned. TASS disclosed that two Soviet border guards were killed when Afghan dushmans crossed the Piandzh River and attacked their detachment the night of 8-9 April. The Afghans suffered heavy casualties and retreated in disarray, the statement noted.

"Important" DRA-USSR agreements were signed 18 April by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Council of Ministers chairman, and K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Econonic Relations, Kabul radio reported. The documents cover R30 million in aid to education, public health, information, and communications as well as economic and technical cooperation with the participation of Afghanistan's private sector. At a luncheon in honor of the Soviet delegation, Keshtmand emphasized that the "valuable assistance" will contribute to the implementation of Afghanistan's policy of national reconciliation. The following day the Soviet delegation attended the opening of the first national conference of private investors where PDPA General Secretary Najibullah spoke on the private sector's role in combatting "backwardness" by strengthening the country's economy.

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'Arafat Said To Invite Al-Asad to PNC Session

JN171247 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] A source close to the Fatah movement has stated that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night telephoned PNSF leader Khalid al-Fahum in Damascus. This telephone contact was arranged by the PFLP and DFLP delegations which together with other Palestinian delegations are participating in the expanded meeting in Algiers in preparation for the next PNC session on 20 April. The source added that Yasir 'Arafat invited Khalid al-Fahum, former PNC speaker who was dismissed from his post at the 17th PNC session in Amman in 1984, to attend the PNC session in Algiers which will begin on Monday.

It will be recalled that Khalid al-Fahum has for some time been trying to bring the viewpoints of the Syrian and Palestinian leaders closer. Two days ago he proposed to President Hafiz al-Asad that a delegation representing the various Palestinian factions visit Damascus. Within this framework, Khalid al-Fahum is continuing his talks and contacts with Algerian and Yemeni envoys in the Syrian capital.

Authoritative Palestinian sources in the Algerian capital said today that Al-Fahum conveyed to President al-Asad an invitation from Yasir 'Arafat to attend the PNC meeting next week. 'Arafat also asked Al-Fahum to extend his sincere greetings to the Syrian president and to inform him that Algerian and Libyan leaders Chadli Bendjedid and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi respectively as well as YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid will attend the opening of the PNC session.

Al-Fahum Reiterates Conditions for Participation

LD182343 Kuna KUNA in English 2002 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus, April 18 (KUNA) — Head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front which comprises six opposition groups Saturday suggested a crucial session of the Palestinian Parliament, scheduled for Monday in Algeria, be postponed for additional reconciliation dialogue between Palestinien groups.

Khalid al-Fahum, former speaker of the Palestine National Council — or Parliament in exile — indicated that there was no change in his attitude toward attending the PNC session which is due to open Monday in Algiers.

Renewing his conditions for participating in the PNC session, he said the Fatah movement must first endorse a statement issued by the opposition groups in Libya earlier this year on political and organizational reforms within the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Al-Fahum, who was talking to reporters after two hours of discussion with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, added that after endorsement of the "Tripoli statement" dialogue should follow between Fatah, the opposition groups and Syrian officials.

He said the proposed dialogue would focus on a new formation of the PNC and future coordination between Palestinian groups. "This necessitates that the PNC session be postponed so that these important fateful phases be completed for a genuine national Palestinian unity," he said.

He stressed that these steps were essential "so that we would not suffer a setback every now and then."

Al-Fahum was last night reached on the telephone by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat who invited him to attend the long-awaited PNC session.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Al-Asad, 'Arafat May Meet in Libya

JN181008 Doha QNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Apr (QNA) — Press reports published here today said that intensive contacts are under way to hold a tripartite summit in Tripoli among Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. *Al-Anba'* quoted informed Palestinian sources in Algiers as saying that 'Arafat left Algiers unexpectedly for the Libyan capital last night after receiving a telephone call from Damascus.

The Palestinian sources expressed their optimism over the success of these contacts in light of the recent telephone conversations between 'Arafat and Khalid al-Fahum, the former PNC speaker who resides in Damascus.

PLO's Hani al-Hasan Defends Amman Agreement

JN170937 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
17 Apr 87 pp 1, 19

[By Sana' al-'Alul in Algiers]

[Excerpt] It became apparent yesterday following 4 days of comprehensive dialogue among the Palestinian factions taking part in preparing the agenda for the next PNC session that a rapprochement among these factions will be crystallized to effect national reconciliation and unity of ranks.

The preparatory meeting was held yesterday in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, who returned to Algiers late last night after attending the Harare meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's nine-member committee.

A Palestinian source said the talks included a discussion of the experience of the past 4 years and the "absolute necessity of unifying the ranks." *Al-Dustur* has learned that the PNC will be held on schedule on 20 April and that all rumors about a postponement until 23 April are groundless.

Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has defended the Amman agreement and Palestinian relations with Egypt. He also gave the first Palestinian reaction to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's statement last Wednesday that Syria is prepared to receive any Palestinian who endorses the Tripoli agreement concerning the reunification of the PLO.

Defending the Amman agreement, Al-Hasan said the lack of coordination delays the establishment of the Palestinian state.

On ties with Egypt, Al-Hasan noted that the Camp David agreement was divided into two parts: the first concerning Egypt, which has been implemented, and the second concerning the Palestinian side. President Mubarak promised that this part will not be implemented, he added. He also said that PLO-Egyptian relations have served the Palestinian position because they have stopped the talk about "self-rule."

On relations with Syria, Al-Hasan said differences between the PLO and Syria cannot be settled by a Palestinian delegation's visit to Damascus. He added: Syria must endorse the Palestinian revolution's right to have a presence in Lebanon and must accept and protect an independent Palestinian revolution.

Earlier, observers noted that President Hafiz al-Asad's statement was the "first Syrian overture to the PLO."

Sources close to Fatah said that the Fatah movement presented important reassurances [damanat] for national reconciliation which embarrassed the pro-Syrian Palestinian factions. These factions have to "assert their independence" and attend the PNC session, they said.

It is believed that following the visit to Damascus by Algerian Foreign Minister Ibrahimi, the participation of the PFLP-GC under Ahmad Jibril and the Al-Sa'iqah organization in the PNC session cannot be ruled out. [passage omitted]

PLO Seeks 'Last-minute' Formula on Egyptian Ties

JN190714 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Apr 87 pp 1, 5

[By Lamis K. Andoni in Algiers]

[Text] Leaders of major Palestinian factions were engaged in urgent last-minute efforts to find a compromise formula governing the PLO's relations with Egypt as the countdown started on Saturday for the scheduled opening of the Palestine National Council (PNC) on Monday.

At the same time, differences over relations with Egypt have not prevented the factions from reaching a draft political agreement to be submitted to the PNC. Informed Palestinian sources said the draft agreement explicitly rejected American preconditions for the PLO to join the "Middle East peace process" but endorsing the idea of an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices.

A committee, comprising of representatives of all PLO factions attending a Palestinian national dialogue here, and eight independent Palestinian personalities, has completed drafting resolutions to be presented to the PNC. These resolutions include an outright rejection of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 on its own as the basis for Mideast peace negotiations, a firm reiteration that the PLO should attend the proposed international conference as an independent delegation and a clear demand for an independent Palestinian state, as the central component of any peace settlement, said the sources.

The draft resolutions are expected to be endorsed by the PNC since they already enjoy the backing of all PLO factions here, including Fatah, the largest commando movement, and the support of independent members of the council. But the committee has left the controversial issue of relations with Egypt to the leaders of the factions who held an emergency meeting on Saturday. The meeting was continuing late into Saturday night.

The Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), headed by George Habash, said Saturday it was still maintaining its position that it would not attend the PNC session if the PLO leadership under Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is also Fatah's leader, did not "put an end to all contacts with the Egyptian Government."

But sources close to the PFLP said the faction's absence at the PNC was not expected to have any bearing on the legality of the council session and that the group "will continue its political struggle to end all contacts with Cairo."

The sources added that they saw no chances for any compromise which would allow the continuation of any form of link between the PLO leadership and the Egyptian Government.

According to PFLP officials, the continuation of PLO- Egypt contacts would "constitute a precedent for a violation of PNC and Arab Summit resolutions governing ties with Egypt."

The source who spoke to the *Jordan Times* said the issue of relations with Egypt was of greater importance to PFLP than the expected aborgation of the Feb. 11, 1985, Jordan- PLO accord on political coordination. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Palestinian Communist Party, which have been playing a major role in trying to find a common ground between the PFLP and Fatah, believe that the resolutions that are expected to emerge from the PNC session will eventually lead to a total severance of all PLO links with the Egyptian Government.

Dr Habash is expected to hold a press conference before the opening of the PNC to explain his final position over the issue, the sources said. The Algerian leadership was expected to meet with a PFLP delegation late Saturday in an attempt to persuade the faction to attend the PNC.

The dispute over ties with Cairo has assumed additional significance since it also has a major bearing on Syrian ties with several PLO factions and has become the central focus of efforts to reconcile the Syrian leadership with that of the PLO. Damascus has already offered to receive a PLO delegation if all factions represented in the team endorsed an agreement reached last month in Tripoli, Libya. The Tripoli agreement explicitly calls for severance of all ties with Egypt among other things.

According to the sources, Damascus has also added a new element to the proposal. The addition, said the sources, is that in the event of a political agreement between the PLO delegation and the Syrian leadership, other anti- 'Arafat factions which are boycotting the Palestinian national dialogue and the PNC would travel to Algeria with the PLO delegation and attend the PNC session.

According to the sources, Mr 'Arafat, who was in Tunis on Saturday, has not given his final stand on the issue of relations with Egypt.

Analysts here noted that Mr 'Arafat "has become disappointed with the mounting Egyptian pressure on him to accept Resolution 242."

Habash To Attend PNC Despite Decision on Egypt

JN200653 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Nabil Darwish dispatch from Algiers]

[Text] At 1300 today the PNC will hold its opening session, after settlement of the issue of Palestinian-Egyptian relations, which until yesterday had been preventing the PFLP's participation in the PNC. The settlement does not ban relations between the PLO and Egypt, but submits to resolutions adopted by PNC sessions and Arab summits on the matter. The resolutions range from boycott to getting closer to Egypt as much as it distances itself from the Camp David accords.

The incumbent PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council have been charged with the task of defining the level of future relations with Egypt.

In a statement to our radio, PFLP Secretary General George Habash explained the reason the PFLP accepted such a formula, as it had been insisting on severing relations with Egypt in a clear manner. He said: I cannot say that all the bases for a solid and firm national unity have been attained in full. However, I can say that a good part of these bases was achieved as a result of the dialogue. We will continue, from within the PLO framework, our serious and indefatigable struggle to provide all the factors necessary for a national unity that makes the PLO a genuine instrument of liberation. We are embarking on this new experience with open hearts and minds, in the hope that all the great and important political and organizational lessons of the past bitter years will be incorporated in the new experience. George Habash also affirmed that the PFLP adopted its decision [to attend the PNC session] in response to the demand of the Palestinian masses and the efforts of the Algerian and Libyan leaders and the international friends, foremost among which is the Soviet Union.

PFLP Statement on Al-Qadhdhafi Attendance

LD172135 Kuwait KUNA in English 1645 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus, April 17 (KUNA) — Libyan leader Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi, Secretary General of South Yemen's [Yemeni] Socialist Party 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Sudanese vice-president Idris al-Banna and North Yemen's Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani will attend the upcoming session of the Palestine National Council.

A statement issued here today by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said the Palestinian leadership dispatched invitations to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to attend the session, while a number of invitations to Arab leaders were directed by Algeria for the same purpose.

The statement added that PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his deputy Khalil al-Wazir as well as DFLP secretary general Nayif Hawatimah contacted ex-speaker of PNC Khalid al-Fahum and invited him to take part in the ongoing comprehensive dialogue in Algiers.

The DFLP said it agreed with Fatah today in a bilateral meeting upon organizational reforms in the PLO, preparedness to revive the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front which included Algeria, Democratic Yemen, Syria, Libya and the PLO, and abidance by Arab summits resolutions.

Four PLO Groups Not To Participate in Session

JN190602 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] At least four Palestinian factions will not participate in the PNC session, which is scheduled to begin in Algiers on Monday. They are the PFLP-GC, the Al-Sa'iqah Organization, the Fatah uprising movement, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF]. A spokesman for the PPSF's Political Bureau said today that the results reached during the Algiers dialogue are insufficient and that the current talks are marked by procrastination for the sake of holding a PNC session without reaching decisive political and organizational results. He added that the PPSF will not participate unless there are serious developments within the next few hours aimed at reaching a political and organizational agreement.

In a related development, Khalid al-Fahum set the following conditions for his participation in the PNC:

1. The conferees in Algiers should endorse the Tripoli document.

2. They should send a delegation, comprising the general secretaries, to Damascus for talks with the other factions.

3. An agreement should be reached on a new PNC structure and on the date and venue of a PNC session.

Al-Fahum added: I will not go to Algiers before an agreement is reached on these points in advance.

Al-Fahum told our radio earlier that anyone who participates in the Algiers conference on any basis other than the Tripoli document will find that the Damascus gates are closed in his face. It will be recalled in this regard that accoring to President Hafiz al-Asad's decision, which was conveyed to Al-Fahum, Syria announced that the Damascus gates are open for all without exception on the condition that the Tripoli document is endorsed in advance.

Palestinian Leaders Speak at 'Dialogue Sessions'

JN170835 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1755 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has stated that Fatah does not want to transform the Palestinian dialogue into a forum that is hostile to any Arab state because Fatah is eager to preserve national and pan-Arab harmony. He affirmed that Fatah had in the past rejected a Syrian demand to liquidate the Palestinian factions of the Rejection Front because Fatah wanted to keep the Palestinian rifles aimed in the right direction at the Zionist enemy.

In a speech he made during the Palestinian national dialogue sessions which resumed yesterday under the chairmanship of PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih with the participation of Brother Abu al-Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] of the Palestine Liberation Front and Brother Abu 'Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary general of the PFLP, Abu Iyad revealed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reneged on the pledges he made before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. He said: He left us to fight alone and opposed the desire of the brothers in Algeria and Yemen to participate in the war.

Abu Iyad said: The Soviet Union pledged to protect Syria if its army took part in the Lebanese war, but Al-Asad signed a cease-fire agreement with Israel at the beginning of the war. Abu Iyad added: Everyone became convinced that the intelligence services [not further identified] were behind the plot to split the PLO, that although these intelligence services began with Fatah, they had all of us as their target because Fatah is a genuine Palestinian national asset and to weaken it is to weaken the Palestinian national position. He said: We in the Palestinian revolution are strong by our unity; we grow together.

Abu Iyad said the intra-Palestinian fighting is a big crime in which some Palestinian factions took part.

Speaking on Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Abu Iyad said: In 1983, Fatah refused to sign a Jordanian-Palestinian political agreement, but the Syrian regime continued to pressure the PLO in order to split and weaken it and subordinate it to its decisions and organs. He said the Fatah movement insisted on holding the PNC in 1984 because the entire national Palestinian action was about to be paralyzed and it knew there was an Arab intention to bypass the PLO and restore trusteeship over our people through an Arab committee of trusteeship over the Palestinian cause. He said the Syrian regime was the one that obstructed the Aden-Algiers agreement, as the brothers in the PFLP and other factions noted. We had no choice but to hold the PNC in Amman, he said, adding: We challenge any statement that there were any preconditions for holding the PNC in Amman. Nevertheless, we ask everybody to review the PNC decisions in the next session to ascertain that these [Amman PNC] decisions were not opposed to the Palestinian program of national unanimity.

Abu Iyad referred to the Amman agreement and presented the Fatah movement's concept of the agreement as a framework for political action and not a political solution. He said: The agreement allowed us to gain time in the present struggle. He added that the Fatah movement leadership does not allow any Arab side to share with it its national and independent political decisionmaking, that from the moment it signed the agreement, Fatah intensified its efforts to strengthen its presence in the occupied territory, affirm our people's steadfastness there, and escalate military action inside the occupied land.

Brother Abu Iyad spoke at length about the Lebanese conditions. He said: It is not surprising to find that a great number of our strugglers and fighters who attempted to return to lebanon to defend our people in the camps are now either in Israeli or Syrian prisons. He said: The battle in Lebanon is still on, and they will try once again to penetrate the unified Palestinian stand, which opposes internecine fighting.

Brother Abu Iyad then touched on Palestinian-Egyptian relations. He asked: Why does Syria want us to completely sever our ties with Egypt while it accepts strong ties with Jordan, which has full relations with Egypt? He said: It has been decided to deny us options and force us to accept one alternative.

Abu Iyad reviewed Palestinian relations with the Egyptian national forces and explained the view that calls for establishing ties with Egypt on the basis of stressing the need to reject Camp David agreements and policies.

Abu Iyad concluded his speech by asserting that the united national Palestinian rifles will protect the Palestinian political movement and national unity.

Abu Iyad was followed by Brother Abu al-'Abbas who presented a long political analysis of Palestinian national action since 1982 and said: Regardless of differences in views among the comrades or the factions, the legitimate frameworks are the only right arena in which to deal with these differences and solve them on the basis of the democratic principles we uphold during our work in the PLO. Abu al-'Abbas said: Amid the disturbances in the power balance, our efforts must be directed at tipping the balance in favor of our national stands. Part of our efforts and moves must be directed at protecting ourselves from destruction.

Brother Abu 'Ali Mustafa spoke at length about the basic issues of national unity. He said: We are of the opinion that struggle on the basis of unity is a thousand times better than struggle on the basis of division. He demanded that unanimous decisions be upheld.

Abu 'Ali Mustafa then presented a frank, critical review of Palestinian-Syrian relations and said: Those whom we placed on our side as a strategic ally have failed and disappointed us. He held the Syrian regime mainly responsible for obstructing the Aden-Algiers agreement of 1984. He said the PFLP opposed the Syrian policy that attempted to create an alternative organization to the PLO and resisted the policy that prompted the brothers to fight among themselves. Brother Abu 'Ali affirmed his great appreciation for the Lebanese people's sacrifices and those of their fighting forces but assailed the Syrian information policy, which uses the Lebanese nationalist resistance to harm the Palestinian national armed struggle. He affirmed the PFLP's commitment to unity in the field of combat in defense of the camps against the dirty war Amal is waging with Syria's support.

Abu 'Ali Mustafa then spoke about the issue of relations with Egypt. He affirmed that there is a genuine change among the Egyptian people in favor of resisting normalization of relations with Israel. He said: It is our duty in the PLO to deepen these national trends with the aim of curbing the Camp David agreements.

At the beginning of the session, the dialogue committee issued a political statement addressed to our courageous Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland. The statement saluted our rebellious steadfast masses and our brother detainees in the Zionist enemy's jails and detention camps. The statement pledged to continue the sincere national efforts to make the national dialogue a success and to crown it by holding the PNC's 18th session on 20 April 1987 under the banner of national unity and under the slogans of occupied homeland uprising and Camps Steadfastness.

Palestinian Factions Approve Draft Agreement

LD200829 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0742 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 20 Apr (KUNA) — Eight Palestinian factions last night concluded a dialogue, which began in Algiers on 12 April, with an agreement that all of them will attend the PNC session which begins here today at 1200 GMT in the presence of a number of Arab and foreign leaders and many reporters.

The drafting committee emanating from the national unity dialogue committees met last night to approve the final text of the draft agreement reached by eight Palestinian organizations on political and organizational issues which have divided the Palestinian ranks over the past 4 years.

The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting late last night to ratify the decision abrogating the Amman agreement signed by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan on 11 February 1985.

The eight factions decided to prepare draft resolutions for the PNC on the position regarding an international peace conference, and the PLO's relations with Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon, to be debated by the PNC committees.

The deputy commander in chief of the Palestine Revolution Forces, Khalil al-Wazir alias Abu Jihad, declared yesterday that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has abrogated the Amman agreement.

Al-Wazir was quoted also as having said that 'Arafat has rejected demands made by some Palestinian groups who until recently were hostile to 'Arafat, for the severance of the PLO's relations with Egypt. Abu Jihad said that the PLO has abrogated the 1985 Amman agreement but insists on maintaining fraternal relations with Jordan.

The eight Palestine groups which participated in the dialogue have agreed to submit these issues to the PNC to decide them.

Abu Jihad pointed out that 95 percent of the differences have been solved, that division has ended, and that there are no further obstacles to the convocation of the PNC meeting in Algiers today.

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah announced in Algiers last night that 'Arafat abrogated the Amman Agreement during the meeting of the eight factions. [passage indistinct]

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, stated last night that the draft agreement reached by the eight Palestinian factions will be referred to the PNC for discussion and (?approval).

He pointed out that the decision to abrogate the Amman agreement between Jordan and the PLO and the question of relations with Egypt is the result of deliberations lasting more than a year with the participation of Arab and foreign circles. He stressed that the PNC will have the final word on these two issues because the draft resolution will not come into force before the PNC ratifies it. He added: "Naturally all resolutions will be made by the PNC." [passage indistinct]

Salah Khalaf said at a news conference that "there will be no change in the PLO leadership positions but the PLO Executive Committee will be expanded to become more representative of the various Palestinian factions."

In reply to reporters' questions, he said that the participants in the national unity dialogue agreed to concentrate military operations inside the occupied territory only — an indication that the Fatah Revolutionary Council, which is the group headed by Sabri al-Banna, Abu Nidal, has agreed to this line.

This group, which broke away from the mother organization Fatah, did take part in the unity dialogue and was represented by its official spokesman 'Atif Abu Bakr. The other factions attending were Fatah, the PFLP, the DFLP, the Communist Party, the ALF, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Popular Struggle Front. Official invitations were sent to and efforts were made to ensure the participation of the PFLP-GC led by Ahmad Jibril; the Fatah opposition group led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]; former PNC speaker Khalid al-Fahum; and other Palestinian figures living in Damascus, but these groups and figures refused to attend.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was also invited to attend the opening session of the PNC but he did not say that he would. Other Arab leaders or their representatives will attend this important conference.

PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash has expressed his optimism at the atmosphere now prevailing and the convocation of the PNC scheduled for today.

About 5,000 people including 700 journalists have arrived in the Algerian capital to attend the PNC meeting which will be held at the Club de Pine, a summer resort 15 km west of Algiers.

The Arab leaders due to attend the opening session include Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP of the PDRY.

Kuwait will be represented by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, who will deputize for Amir of Kuwait Sahykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Al-'Usaymi carries with him a message from the amir of Kuwait to PNC speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and he will be addressing the session on behalf of the amir.

Algeria, Libya, and the PDRY in cooperation and coordination with the USSR have worked for the unification of the Palestine groups. Tripoli witnessed a number of Palestinian meetings that were attended effectively and fruitfully by Hawatimah.

Sudanese and Iraqi officials as well as officials from the YAR and other Arab countries will attend the PNC meeting.

Palestinians Reportedly Reject Abu Nidal Group

LD200843 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0814 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Apr (KUNA) — The newspaper *Al-Ittihad*, published here, said today that all Palestinian factions present in Algiers have rejected representation of the Abu Nidal group in the PLO Executive Committee out of concern for the PLO's international relations, and to prevent any negative effects on these relations.

The paper adds that the Palestinian organizations, however, approved representation of the Abu Nidal group in the Central Office and the PNC, but not as an organization. It is to be represented by independent figures.

DFLP's Hawatimah Discusses Palestian Issues

LD191628 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 19 April — DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has stated that 95 percent of the political and organizational draft resolutions to be put forward to the Palestine National Council (PNC) have already been drafted and they affirm the Palestine people's right to return to their homeland, determine their own fate, and set up their independent state.

Speaking at a press conference here today, he said that the PLO Executive Committee will announce tonight the abrogation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement after Yasir 'Arafat announced the abrogation of this agreement during a closed session of leaders of eight Palestinian groups who are taking part in a comprehensive unity dialogue.

He said that the Amman agreement is being abrogated because the agreement stands against the right of the Palestine people to an independent state and to unity of representation at regional and international conferences. He added that there is no longer any room for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian or a joint Arab delegation, because we adhere to our right to independent representation.

He also said that it has been agreed to normalize relations with all Arab countries on the basis of the Palestine people's right to an independent representation and to the establishment of a Palestinian state in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences.

He said we will struggle to build relations with Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon or, for that matter, any Arab country on the basis of adherence to the rights of the Palestine people and on the basis of those resolutions which reject the Camp David accords and the Reagan initiative and support the Palestinian people's right to return and to self-determination, as well as the separatist and direct solutions, and calls for an international conference to be held to solve the Middle East problem.

He said that the leaders of the Palestinian groups agreed in their closed meeting on a number of democratic and organizational reforms within the PLO.

The agreement provides for the expansion of the presidency of the PNC to insure greater representation of the various groups; the election of members of the Central Council, which is the liaison body between the sessions of the PNC so as to give it wider legislative powers; and on a plan for implementation of the PNC resolutions.

He added that the Central Council will have the power to control the work of the PLO Executive Committee in the light of its implementation of PNC resolutions, and to freeze, at most, the membership of one third of the Executive Committee members in the event of deviation from the PNC resolutions.

Hawatimah said that the conferees agreed to form a collective working body — a kind of daily command — emanating from the PLO Executive Committee.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources have said that the leaderships of the various Palestinian factions began separate meetings today to take a final position on draft resolutions amid optimism that the 18th PNC session will be held tomorrow, on schedule, now that reconciliatory outlets have been found regarding the most important political and organizational issues.

Palestinian sources here expect today's meetings to continue until late tonight although a time has been fixed for the PNC session now that all the participating delegations and observers have arrived.

The same sources have told KUNA that Libya and Algeria, which are opposed to the restoration of the severed relations with Egypt, tried to persuade Yasir 'Arafat to facilitate the current dialogue through the announcement of a clear position regarding the points of disagreement, and not to leave that to the PNC where the majority supports 'Arafat's political line.

It has been said that no agreement was reached and that President Chadli Bendjedid may not attend the PNC opening session. Mohamed Cherif Massaadia will deputize for him.

The sources say that there is renewed talk about a Yasir 'Arafat threat to resign, just as he did during the 1984 session in Amman, if the negotiations are deadlocked or if some Palestinian factions insist on the principle of collective leadership of the PLO.

The same sources report that 'Arafat has agreed to freeze relations [as received] particularly because, according to observers here, he believes that the growing Syrian-Jordanian relations and the implicit approval of the entry of the Syrian forces into Lebanon are against 'Arafat's quiet efforts to regain his political and military weight at Palestinian and international levels.

The sources said that 'Arafat might visit Moscow following the meetings of the PNC. The visit would follow the scheduled visit of Syrian President Hafiz al-'Asad to the Soviet capital.

According to informed sources, the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) has agreed in principle to reunify its two factions following the split of a group led by Muhammad Ilyas, alias Abu Ilyas, in 1983. However, differences still exist over the post of secretary general between Abu Ilyas and Tal'at Ya'qub.

The sources added that the dialogue has helped solve the organizational squabble over the annexation of the Palestinian Communist Party to the PlO Executive Committee as soon as it declares it adherance to the national charter and to the various Palestinian resolutions which consider the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people and which provide all the waging of all forms of struggle, including armed struggle, against the Zionist presence.

Regarding the Fatah Revolutionary Council Movement, led by Abu Nidal, the Palestinian sources say that the return of this group to the PNC is dependent on a declaration of its cessation of external operations. This latter group participated in the unity dialogue, represented by its official spokesman 'Atif Abu Bakr.

KUWAIT

Shaykh Sabah, USSR's Petrovskiy Discuss Gulf War

LD181505 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1348 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Apr (KUNA) — At his office in the Foreign Ministry this afternoon, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, met with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, who is currently visiting Kuwait while touring some countries in the region. The meeting was also attended by the foreign ministry under secretary, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin; the acting head of the Political Department, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sharikh; the Soviet ambassador in Kuwait, Ernest Zverev, and some members of the delegation accompanying Petrovskiy.

After the hour and a half meeting, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told journalists that the two sides had comprehensive and frank talks that focused on bilateral relations, on the regional situation, and international issues of common interest. He said the Iraq-Iran war was, naturally, one of the first subjects discussed... and talks centered on the superpowers' position regarding this conflict and their moral responsibility as permanent members of the UN Security Council for promoting world peace in any region. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed his pleasure at meeting Petrovskiy. He described their conversation as "open and friendly." He expressed hope that the superpowers will make greater efforts and support the concern and work of the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, regarding the need to end this destructive war as soon as possible.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry said that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad spoke to the Soviet official with his usual factual frankness. Thus, he dealt with all the urgent and important issues and confirmed anew Kuwait's principled and firm beliefs toward those matters. The source said the talks covered the Iraq-Iran war, as befits its importance, and the complications and risks caused by it, not only to the region but to the entire world. He added that the two sides agree on the importance of accelerating efforts to find a peaceful and just solution to the conflict in accordance with the rules governing international relations and resolutions calling for the ending of the war, be they those issued by the UN Security Council, or those of the fifth Islamic summit, which was held in Kuwait in late January. In this context, the source went on to say, Mr Petrovskiy confirmed the seriousness of Soviet moves to end the war. Petrovskiy also confirmed the agreement of Soviet and Kuwaiti attitudes in their assessment of the dangers posed by the continuation of this conflict, and subsequently, the need to end it.

The official source said the Palestine problem took up a great deal of the discussion. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Petrovskiy expressed hopes for the success of the efforts currently being made to unify Palestinian ranks, especially at this stage, when everyone is working for the convening of the international conference on the Middle East. He also said that the talks covered many issues of common interest. The Soviet guest praised the efforts being made by Kuwait to solve differences inside and outside the region. He also wished Kuwait success in its chairmanship of the ICO. Petrovskiy praised the resolutions adopted by the fifth Islamic summit conference in Kuwait. He said his country looked with great respect and appreciation on the way Kuwait handled that summit and the way in which it had invested its balanced and principled foreign policy in uniting the words of the participants.

Lengthy talks were held between Foreign Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and Petrovskiy at the Foreign Ministry at 0900 today.

Kuwaiti was represented by Economic Department Director Faysal al-Salih al-Mutawwa, his deputy and director of the office of the under secretary, Al-Ghanim; the third secretary in the office of the minister of state for foreign affairs, Nasir al-Mazin; and Sayf al-Kafif, from the political department. On the Soviet side the talks were attended by Soviet Ambassador Ernest Zverev and several members of the delegation accompanying the guest.

These talks lasted more than 3 and 1/2 hours and focused on all issues concerning the region and international questions of common interest. A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry described those talks as having been "intensive and detailed and expressed the reality of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries."

For his part, Petrovskiy described his talks today with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Al-Shahin as useful. He said the talks were comprehensive and centered on bilateral relations and matters of common interest. He added that the word "useful" was insufficient to express the nature of the political talks he held here. "The talks were comprehensive and deep. We exchanged views, and presented our new ideas concerning stability in the region and the need to guarantee its security." He went on to say that the talks dealt with the Middle East and the discovery of solutions to the problem in the light of the growing calls for an international peace conference. Petrovskiy said he came out with a very impressive impression after his talks with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, which included "deep and interesting remarks." He expressed the conviction that such dialogue "is a good model for the quality of relations, the method of building them, and consolidation among states having different systems." He confirmed that this dialogue was "rich" and practical in the clarification of facts and the improvement of the situation. Al-Shahin gave a luncheon today in honor of the Soviet guests, which was attended by officials of the Foreign Ministry and the staff of the Soviet Embassy. Petrovskiy is expected to give a news conference tomorrow afternoon at which he will discuss the results of his trip and several current international problems.

Petrovksiy Gives Message to Amir

LD191204 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Apr (KUNA) — At 1130 today, his highness the amir received Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, who conveyed to his highness, may God protect him, a message from His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU. Faysal al-Salih al-Mutawwi', acting Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait also attended the meeting.

Says Kuwaiti Policy 'Moderate'

LD191530 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1429 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Apr (KUNA) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy has said that Kuwait follows a moderate and balanced policy regarding all Arab, regional, and international issues. He considered this [word indistinct] the best indication of the way foreign relations and peaceful coexistence should be practiced in our complex world.

At a news conference at his country's ambassadorial residence here this afternoon, the Soviet official added that Kuwait's voice is now being heard around the world: It is a voice of reason, of which there are few. He said he had held "serious and detailed" talks with his highness the amir of Kuwait today, talks that dealt with Kuwaiti-Soviet relations, which were accorded "great appreciation and given a high assessment."

The discussion also included international matters, with the Middle East at the fore. The two sides showed mutual understanding regarding the need to continue efforts at the Arab and international levels for a settlement of the issue.

He announced that he conveyed a verbal message to his highness the amir from the Soviet leadership and from Mikhail Gorbachev expressing the Soviet Union's congratulations to Kuwait for its success in convening the Islamic summit. The Soviet official also invited his highness the amir to visit the Soviet Union, noting that the invitation was accepted and received with satisfaction.

Petrovskiy said that he and his delegation held a series of talks and consultations with Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin on all issues and topics of mutual interest. The delegation's agenda, he said, was extensive and covered all bilateral and international affairs.

The Soviet official expressed satisfaction with the identity of the two countries' views when discussing the Middle East question and the need for an international peace conference under UN auspices to settle the dispute.

Petrovskiy emphasized that circumstances today are more suitable than ever for such a conference, as most countries insist on it.

He noted that the two states agree that efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war as soon as possible must be activated. He added that his country gives special attention to the efforts made in the UN Security Council and the international community to this end.

He stressed that Moscow has frequently announced its great interest in securing freedom of navigation in the Arab Gulf. He pointed out that discussions covered Soviet leader Gorbachev's proposal regarding freedom of shipping in the Indian Ocean in general, and the Strait of Hormuz in particular. He also explained that Kuwait warmly welcomed the proposal.

He added that his current visit to Kuwait has proved once again the soundness of Soviet foreign policy, which sees all mankind living on the same planet, interlinked, with a policy satisfactory to all, coupled with a complete understanding of existing facts and realities.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister denied that his country intended to resume relations with the Zionist entity. He said the reason for severing those relations in 1967 still existed: Israel still refused to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. He added that this subject was not discussed during the visit, explaining that this trip had been planned for some time in order to strengthen and consolidate bilateral relations and understanding with the countries of the region.

He expressed his conviction that the pressing matter in the Middle East was the transition from word to deeds, whether concerning the convening of an international peace conference or the ending of the Iraq-Iran war and the maintenance of freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

Petrovskiy stressed that his country's government decided to cancel a Soviet consular delegation's visit to occupied Palestine after Israel attempted to exploit the trip for purposes of extortion, profiteering, and pressure, and createed a media clamor about it. He explained that the visit would have been a purely practical one to deal with the condition of some Soviet citizens, most of whom are working in religious institutions, and to discuss the state of Soviet real estate in occupied Palestine. He denied that the Soviet Union had come to an agreement with anyone on allowing the periodic immigration of a specific number of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. He said that decisions on emigration are made individually each time. He went on to say that emigration was subject to the laws of the Soviet Union, a procedure followed in most countries. There are Jews in most parts of the world who are immigrating to occupied Palestine, among them Jews from Arab states.

Regarding efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, Petrovskiy reaffirmed that he has some points and ideas aimed at reactivating these attempts. These ideas, he said, include talks within the UN Security Council and preparations for a special session of member-states at the foreign ministers' level to discuss the question of ending that war. The ideas also include sounding out the countries concerned with the conflict, he said.

He added: "Proceeding from our new view of the situation, we believe that consultations should be held with all sides to firmly determine the facts, since no state has a monopoly on truth."

He said that Gorbachev's proposal to initiate international multilateral talks on freedom of navigation in the Arab Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz was discussed. Referring to past Security Council resolutions in this connection, he said that most of these had not been implemented due to Iran's refusal.

He added: The international situation is unstable; changes and developments are continuous. That is why the search for new ways of persuading the warring parties — and the search for solutions satisfactory to all — must continue.

He noted that practical steps for the protection of ships and shipping in the Gulf will be discussed as part of the talks on ending the war.

He denied any agreement with the United States regarding the war. He added: We do not deny our efforts and endeavors in the search for an end to that conflict, but there has been no agreement with the United States on this.

The deputy Soviet foreign minister affirmed that conditions favored a Middle East peace conference in light of the following three factors:

1. The resolutions of the Nonaligned Movement;

2. The resolutions of the fifth Islamic Summit Conference held in Kuwait;

3. The resolutions of the EEC.

He pointed out that these three factors will be of great help in pushing forward the efforts of this conference.

He declared that what he called "healthy thinking" in Israeli politics will ultimately triumph, and Israel itself will come to realize that "there can be no solution other than the peaceful one."

He pointed out that by "healthy thinking," he meant a change in the current policy, which is based on continued aggression and expansion in the Middle East.

Asked about the Soviet Union's attitude toward the Palestine dialogue meetings in Algiers and the PNC meeting scheduled to begin tomorrow, Petrovskiy said his country considers the Palestinian question to be the essence of the Middle East problem and that there can be no solution to it without PLO unity. He said his country has always worked to bring about this unity, adding that if the Palestinian dialogue in Algiers were to have positive results, the Palestine resistance movement would win a great success and victory.

He declared that there have been developments and improvements in Soviet-Egyptian relations and that his country views with respect Egypt's stand alongside the international efforts to settle the Middle East crisis.

He said the USSR has been trying to apply "new thinking," which calls for the political solution of all regional conflicts, including those of the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua.

The Soviet official rejected the idea of linking the establishment of diplomatic relations between his country and some of the Arab Gulf states with a withdrawal from Afghanistan. He described such a linkage as improper.

He declared Moscow's readiness, in principle, to establish and develop relations with all the world's countries, including those of the region.

He said there were forces that have been trying to impede the course of a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan and to thwart all attempts to find a solution, despite the great efforts of the Afghan Government to bring about national reconciliation.

He said the USSR fully supports the Afghan Government's efforts to achieve national reconciliation.

He declared that his country has withdrawn part of its forces from Afghanistan and has been working for a complete pullout "after the removal of all the reasons that led to the entry of these forces into Afghanistan in the first place."

Departs for UAE

LD192008 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1729 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Apr KUNA — Vladimir Petrovskiy, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, left the country tonight for Abu Dhabi on the second leg of his tour of four Arab states, including, in addition to Kuwait and the UAE, the Sultanate of Oman and Iraq.

He was seen off by Mr Faysal al-Salih al-Mutawwa; acting under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; Mr Mansur al-Awadhi of the Protocol Department, Mr Ernest Zverev, Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, and the embassy staff.

Libyan Foreign Secretary Arrives For 3-Day Visit

LD191736 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 19 Apr (KUNA) — Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi,secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived here this evening on a visit scheduled to last 3 days. [passage omitted]

On arrival, Mr al-Talhi told KUNA that he will convey a message to his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, from his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

He also said "this message concerns the excellent fraternal relations that link the two countries and is part of the permanent consultations between them regarding everything of concern to the Arab nation."

In addition, he expressed his pleasure at visiting Kuwait, "the fraternal and dear country," and voiced his gratitude to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad for the hospitality and generous welcome.

The Libyan secretary is scheduled to meet his highness the amir and the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, on Tuesday.

He will also attend a ceremony tomorrow marking the opening of the Palace of Justice, which will be presided over by his highness the amir.

He will also hold talks with the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs on bilateral relations and current developments affecting the Arab situation. [passage omitted]

OMAN

Officials Receive Singapore Information Minister

JN191457 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] His Highness Fahr ibn Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, received in his office in the Bayt al-Falaj Military Camp this morning His Excellency Yeo Ning Hong, Singapore's communications and information minister and deputy minister of defense, and his accompanying delegation. Those at the meeting discussed issues of common concern and reviewed the good relations between the two friendly countries. At the end of the meeting, gifts were exchanged between his highness and the guest minister.

Information Minister His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas met at noon today at his office in the Information Ministry with His Excellency Dr Yeo Ning Hong, Singapore communications and information minister and deputy minister of defense, who is currently visiting the country. During the session they discussed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them, with emphasis on the information sector. The guest minister arrived in Oman on Thursday for an official 5-day visit to the Sultanate.

PDRY

YSP's Al-Bid Departs Aden for Tripoli

EA170917 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, left Aden for Tripoli on an official visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah at the head of a party and government delegation. The trip is in response to an invitation from his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution.

During the visit, the brother secretary general will hold talks with the Libyan leadership on strengthening militant relations between the two brotherly countries and will review current developments in the Arab world in light of imperialist and Zionist threats and challenges designed to weaken the Arab national liberation movement and undermine its progressive gains.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid will then pay an official visit to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria in response to an invitation from his brother, Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the Algerian FLN party. His stay will include talks with the leaders of the Algerian revolution on ways of strengthening and deepening the firm and established militant bonds between the two revolutions, peoples, and brotherly countries, ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation in various spheres, and coordinating joint stands on issues of common interest.

During his visit to Algeria, the brother secretary general will also participate in the PNC session to crown joint efforts by Algeria and Democratic Yemen to unite the forces of the Palestinian revolution and restore the unity of the PLO — the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative — on the basis of its program, which is opposed to imperialism, Zionism, and liquidationist plans. Such designs seek to obliterate the Palestinian national character.

When he stops over at Damascus International Airport, the brother secretary general will hold talks with Syrian leaders on ways of tightening relations between the two brotherly parties and countries, and will review current developments in the Arab world and coordinate common stands on them. [passage indistinct]

Concludes Damascus Stopover

EA172255 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
0330 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and the members of his delegation left Damascus yesterday afternoon after concluding a short visit to the sisterly Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

At Damascus Airport, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid made a press statement in which he said: During our stopover in Damascus, we met our militant brother, Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic. We had an opportunity for brotherly consultations and a chance to exchange views on bilateral and Arab issues so as to reinforce and deepen ties between our two parties — the YSP and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party — and the governments of our two brotherly countries, and to achieve Arab solidarity.

He added: We agreed that joint efforts to achieve Arab solidarity against imperialism and Zionism and their instruments must continue to be strengthened. [passage omitted] We reaffirm our strong support for sisterly Syria in its confrontation of imperialist and Zionist conspiracies.

The meeting between Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Brother Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, took place at noon yesterday in the Syrian capital, Damascus. The two men discussed bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them in areas that symbolize the joint aims and common interests of the two parties and brotherly countries. The meeting was held in a fraternal atmosphere.

Begins Tripoli Visit

EA172304 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, together with the party delegation and officials accompanying him, arrived in the Libyan capital yesterday evening for an official visit to Libya at the invitation of Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September revolution. The visit will last several days. [passage omitted]

In a statement after his arrival, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah was an expression of the solidarity which Democratic Yemen's party, government, and people feel for the Libyan Arab people in their fight against the conspiracies of imperialism and Zionism. This visit also coincides with the 1st anniversary of the America's sinful aggression against the Jamahiriyah, he said.

The brother secretary general expressed deep pleasure at his visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and declared: During my visit I will discuss bilateral relations, ways of reinforcing them, and Arab issues. He expressed confidence that the Yemeni and Libyan sides would forge ahead toward unity in their work to achieve Arab solidarity against imperialism and Zionism.

The brother secretary general praised the constructive and positive role played by the Great Jamahiriyah and the historic leadership of the 1 September revolution in unifying Palestinian revolutionary groups in their struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and their agents, and their destructive schemes against the Arab revolutionary movement.

Official talks are slated to open today between delegations from Democratic Yemen and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The discussions will center on relations between the two brotherly countries and ways of reinforcing and developing them. The delegations will also review the latest developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas and issues of common interest.

Holds Talks With Al-Qadhdhafi

EA181834 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] [Announcer] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, met yesterday evening with Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September revolution, as part of his official and friendly visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Here are some more details:

[Unidentified correspondent] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, who is currently visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, met this evening [17 April] with Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September revolution. During the meeting, which took place in a warm, cordial, and brotherly atmosphere, issues pertaining to the reinforcement of Arab solidarity and the achievement of Arab unity were discussed. Also examined were efforts to unify the groups of the Palestinian revolution and reinforce the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people against the Zionist occupation for the restoration of their legitimate national rights, including those of self-determination, and the construction of an independent national state on their national soil.

Both sides agreed that efforts to achieve PLO unity on the basis of the PLO's policy must be intensified. It program is one of hostility to imperialism, Zionism, and capitulatory plans. The two sides stressed the necessity of developing coordination between the two brotherly countries, in addition to Syria and Algeria, and reinforcing the role of Arab progressive nationalist regimes with the goal of confronting the vicious imperialist and Zionist onslaught and foiling their designs in our Arab region.

A discussion also took place during the meeting on ways of reinforcing and developing the militant relations between the two brotherly countries and the Yemeni and Libyan revolutions to guarantee the fulfillment of the aspirations and hopes of the two fraternal peoples in Democratic Yemen and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

During the meeting, the comrade secretary general expressed the condemnation of the PDRY's party, government, and people of the sinful U.S. aggression against the territory of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He affirmed our country's solidarity with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriyah, pointing out our party and people's readiness to stand beside the Libyan people to face all the aggressive challenges devised by U.S. imperialism. Its goal is to impair the gains of the 1 September state as part of the imperialist and Zionist onslaught against the Arab national liberation movement, in all its forms, and against Arab nationalist and progressive groups.

The meeting was attended, on the Yemeni side, by Brothers Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; Dr Salim 'Umar Bukayr, member and secretary of the Central Committee; Qa'id Muhammad 'Ali Salah, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the committee of the party's organization in Abyan Governorate; and Alawi al-Saqqaf, our country's ambassador to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Libya was represented by Brothers 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council; and Muhammad al-Madani al-Bukhari, secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury and head of the mission of honor [as heard].

At his residence in Tripoli this afternoon [17 April], the comrade secretary general met with Brother 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council. The relations that bind the two fraternal countries and peoples were reviewed at the session. The latest developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas, as well as the unification of the two countries' positions on questions of common interest, were studied as well.

Al-'Attas Meets With Soviet Geology Minister

EA180418 Aden ANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Aden, 16 Apr (ANA) — Today Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, received a Soviet delegation headed by Comrade Yevgeniy Kozlovskiy, Soviet minister of geology, who is taking part in the launching of the oil discovery in Shabwah Governorate which was announced yesterday.

At the start of the meeting, Brother al-'Attas welcomed the Soviet friendship delegation. He noted that the discovery of oil had long been awaited by our people in Democratic Yemen. He described it as an expression of the great efforts made by Yemeni and Soviet experts and workers. He said it would further strengthen friendly Yemeni-Soviet relations, which have shown their solidity and strength and have proved to be a firm and principled basis on which to promote the interests of the two friendly peoples, the objectives of the two parties and the goals of their joint struggle.

He stressed that Yemeni-Soviet ties were strategic (?relations) growing steadily on the basis of the friendship and cooperation agreement signed between the two friendly countries.

For its part, the Soviet delegation expressed deep happiness and great satisfaction at the success of the Soviet-Yemeni oil discovery and their continuing (?investment). It expressed the USSR's support for our country in different fields, including oil and minerals.

During the meeting, the two men examined aspects of bilateral cooperation in the field of oil and minerals and ways of developing them in the framework of agreements signed between the governments of the two countries. They also (?discussed) certain issues related to subsequent phases of collaboration in this field.

The meeting was attended by the following comrades: Fadl Muhsin 'Abdullah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of Energy; and Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the Central Committee and Soviet Ambassador in Aden.

Nu'man Receives Soviets

EA190405 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met in his office this afternoon with Comrade Yevgeniy Aleksandrovich Kozlovskiy, USSR Minister of Geology; Yevgeniy Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; Comrade Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the Central Committee and USSR ambassador in Aden; and the economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Aden.

During the meeting, there was a discussion of various aspects of bilateral economic, cultural, and technical cooperation, as well as the growing relations of friendship between the Yemeni and Soviet peoples and methods of developing and strengthening them further.

The brother chairman of the Council of Ministers expressed his deep satisfaction at the development of relations in the past, which has included various social, economic, and cultural activities between the two friendly countries.

Comrade Kozlovskiy expressed his pleasure at visiting the PDRY and participating in the celebrations marking the announcement of the production of oil. He praised Democratic Yemen's continuing growth in various fields.

SAUDI ARABIA

Belgian Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

LD180149 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Apr (SPA) — Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans arrived in Riyadh this evening on a visit to the Kingdom. He was met at King Khalid Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Ambassador Ma'mun Qabbani, head of the Western Department at the Foreign Ministry; Ambassador Hassan al-Shawwaf, director general of the foreign minister's office; Ambassador 'Isa al-Nuwaysir, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and by Pierre Molinairi, Belgian ambassador to the Kingdom.

In a statement to SPA, the Belgian minister explained that his visit was part of the process of briefing officials in the Kingdom on the EEC statement concerning an international peace conference on the Middle East. Tindemans said his tour includes Jordan and a number of Mediterranean countries, in addition to the Kingdom. He intends to learn about these countries' positions, bring views closer together, and get things moving as far as the conference is concerned.

Meets With Prince Sa'ud

LD181636 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1327 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 18 Apr (SPA) — This morning in the Foreign Ministry, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, met with His Excellency Leo Tindemans, Belgium's minister of foreign relations.

The two ministers discussed bilateral relations in addition to regional issues, led by the Palestinian question and Europe's role in the ongoing efforts to convene an international conference on the Middle East. This is in view of the Belgian minister's role as current chairman of the EC Council of Ministers and in light of the recent European initiative announced by the EC in Brussels last February. [passage omitted]

Departs After 2-Day Visit

LD190356 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1525 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Apr (SPA) — Leo Tindemans, Belgian minister of foreign relations, left Riyadh today after a 2-day visit to the Kingdom. He was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; Ambassador 'Isa al-Nuwaysir, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and by Pierre Molinairi, Belgian ambassador to the Kingdom.

King Fahd Pays 2-Day Official Visit to France

For reportage on King Fahd's visit to Paris, including his meetings with President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, see the France section of the 16 April Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

UAE

USSR's Petrovskiy Arrives on 2-Day Visit

JN200700 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Apr (WAKH) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait tonight on a 2-day visit to the UAE as part of a tour of several states in the region. During his stay, the Soviet official will hold talks with UAE officials on recent developments in the area, with emphasis on the Iraq-Iran war, the Middle East issue, and efforts to convene an international peace conference. All this will be in addition to bilateral ties.

The Soviet official was received by Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, under secretary at the UAE Foreign Ministry, and Feliks Nikolayevich Fedotov, Soviet ambassador to the UAE.

Begins Official Talks

JN201027 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Official talks began today between the UAE and the USSR. Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, led the UAE delegation, while Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy led his country's group. Talks dealt with ongoing events in the Gulf, efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, developments in the Middle East, attempts to convene an international peace conference and ways to strengthen bilateral relations.

Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Leaves for PRC

JN190905 Doha QNA in Arabic 0758 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Apr (QNA) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, left Abu Dhabi for China this morning. This will be the first official visit by a UAE official to China since diplomatic relations were established on 1 November 1984.

During the trip, which will begin on Wednesday, Rashid 'Abdallah will hold talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian on the situation in the Gulf and efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war.

The discussions will also cover developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, attempts to convene an international peace conference, and the possibility of China contributing to these efforts in its capacity as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

In addition, Rashid 'Abdallah's talks will deal with bilateral ties and ways of bolstering them in accordance with the economic, trade, and technical cooperation agreement signed on 14 November 1985.

YAR

Development, Planning Minister Leaves for PRC

JN181340 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, and head of the central planning organization, left for Beijing today at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to the PRC.

In a statement to SABA', he said that during the trip, the two sides will discuss ways of strengthening relations of amity and cooperation between the two friendly countries, in addition to broadening collaboration in economics, trade, and technology.

He added that issues of common interest would be studied as well, with emphasis on some projects which China is financing and implementing, as well as the possibility of financing some future projects that are part of the third development plan.

The delegation accompanying Dr al-'Attar includes Dr Ahmad al-'Ambari, director of the board of financial institutions, and a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry and the central planning organization.

Military Cooperation To Resume With USSR

JN191009 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Egypt and the Soviet Union have agreed to resume military cooperation, with emphasis on the supply of spare parts for Soviet weapons still in use with the Egyptian forces. Egyptian military delegations will visit Moscow whenever necessary to agree to the supply of spare parts. This was announced by Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo, at a news conference yesterday.

Further on Visit by EC's Leo Tindemans

Views Syria, Conference

JN162055 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Leo Tindemans, chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, has said he does not believe the PLO's abrogation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement will be a fatal blow to the peace process. He noted that the basic point is whether the PLO accepts Resolution 242 and participation in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Tindemans said: We are now awaiting the results of the PNC meeting. However, he added that if the PNC decides to abrogate the accord that would be a regrettable setback.

In an exclusive statement to our station, the Belgian foreign minister said he is ready to meet with Yasir 'Arafat and PLO officials when he leaves for Tunis at the beginning of next month. He added that he held contacts in Jordan and Egypt during which he presented proposals regarding the promotion of the negotiating process through an international conference. He explained that he presented several ideas in Jordan as part of the attempt to bring the views of various sides closer together, as there are still differences. He added that his proposals concentrate on the progress of negotiations so that a solution to the problem can be reached either directly or gradually.

Tindemans also stressed the importance of the Syrian role and Syria's participation in the conference. He said that Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i informed him that Syria will take part in any international conference held on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338. However, when I asked Tindemans if he intends to visit Damascus or contact Syria, he said there are no plans to do so at present in view of Europe's stand toward Syria. He added: We are awaiting developments. He indicated that King Husayn has worked with Europe to restore normal relations with Syria.

In his statement to us, Leo Tindemans said the convocation of an international conference this year is not impossible. However, his impression of the American position, which he got in his recent contacts with U.S. officials, is that the United States remains skeptical about the possibility of holding the conference, although it does not object to the idea.

Tindemans said President Husni Mubarak supports the European concept of an international conference, its role, and its tasks on the basis of the dynamism of the its work. He also feels this conference should not convene and then simply adjourn. It should continue meeting, present proposals, help the parties bring their views closer together, and resume dialogue when negotiations reach a deadlock.

Notes Proposed Formats

JN171918 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Leo Tindemans, Belgian foreign minister and chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, is scheduled to hold talks in Riyadh on the international Middle East peace conference after concluding his talks in Cairo and leaving for Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to our radio, Tindemans said he is concentrating on three points during his current contacts: the form of the international conference, preparations for it, and the role it can play. Tindemans said there are still differences on these three basic points, on which agreement must be reached before the gathering can be held.

Tindemans said there are four trends in the parties' stands toward holding an international conference. One calls for using the conference as a mere framework so that it will begin, break up, and be followed immediately by direct negotiations. Another says the conference should play an active role in helping the parties break the deadlock without having the power to impose or object to solutions. This second trend is supported by the EC. Egypt also backed it during President Mubarak's talks with Tindemans. He added that the third trend calls for defining in advance what the negotiations may produce. The fourth trend states that the conference should have the power to offer solutions and veto certain proposals.

However, despite all pending problems, Tindemans believes the current momentum should be utilized. He said the United States does not object to holding the conference and added that the Americans have some ideas about these difficulties. He said he sensed this in his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, Richard Murphy, and Ambassador Cluverius, with whom he met on the eve of his departure for the Middle East. Moreover, the participation of the five large states has become acceptable.

It is certain that the current international contacts on the conference must have dealt with exact details regarding, for instance, the final solution and whether this will be reached all at once or in stages. This was the crux of talks with Jordan, Leo Tindemans told me. The second point regards Syria's participation and whether it will take part at the beginning of the conference or at a later stage, bearing in mind that all realize the importance of Syria's role. Tindemans explained to me that it would be difficult for the conference to achieve anything positive without Syria.

Armed Forces Command Reports Continuing Operations

Communique No 2,644

JN171638 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,644 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through their daily combat heroics, our brave Armed Forces affirm their decisive victory over our country's enemies, the criminal Zionist racist rulers in Iran. Last night and today our victorious forces inflicted the following losses on the aggressors:

1. Our daring helicopter gunships carried our 61 combat sorties today over enemy units in the operational areas, causing losses in men, materiel, and vehicles. They also destroyed many weapons emplacements. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In capable combat operations, embodying the bravery of our victorious men in the I Army Corps central sector, our valiant units killed 280; destroyed a tank and its crew; and destroyed 2 bulldozers, 2 shovels [preceding word in English], and 9 vehicles. Blessed be the men of the I Army Corps sector, deal more painful blows to the enemy.

3. Our victorious units in the VII Army Corps sector continued to attack enemy assembly points, weapons emplacements, and engineering works, dealing heavy losses to the enemy. They also accomplished the following: The downing of an enemy drone by our ground defenses; the killing of three enemy personnel; the destruction of a 106-mm gun and one heavy machine gun; the burning and destruction of two vehicles and a shovel [preceding word in English]; the demolition of three ammunition dumps; the destruction of four positions; and the halting of enemy engineering operations.

4. Through their brave activities, our valiant men in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah inflicted fresh losses on the enemy in addition to the following: The destruction of nine infantry positions and a machine gun nest; the killing of four enemy personnel; the burning and destruction of four vehicles; the destruction of a steel tower and a heavy machine gun; and the seizure of six 4-mm launchers, four machine guns, seven SPG-7's, a 60-mm mortar, and six Klashnikov rifles.

5. The destruction of a vehicle loaded with a 106-mm gun, resulting in the death of those aboard; the destruction of two observation posts; and the killing of two enemy personnel in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. One vehicle was burned, a firing position was destroyed, and an enemy soldier was killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 April 1987

Communique No 2,645

JN181631 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,645 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the determination of men who have faith in God, the homeland, and the nation's principles, the brave and loyal men of Iraq are continuing their combat activities, inflicting further losses each day on the Iranian regime, the agent of Zionism.

The results of combat operations for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our brave helicopter-borne knights are continuing their heroic activities with high determination to destroy the aggressors. They carried out 63 combat missions, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy scoundrels, and on their equipment and weapons. They also destroyed many infantry positions before returning safely to base in God's care.

2. Our brave forces on the VII Army Corps front carried out effective artillery and mortar shelling of enemy positions opposite them. They also staged other courageous missions, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy behind the lines. All this was in addition to the following known losses:

Four soldiers killed; one heavy machine gun and its crew destroyed; two infantry positions and an emplacement destroyed; five ammunition dumps demolished; and one vehicle destroyed.

3. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah staged effective strikes on enemy units opposite them, inflicting the following losses on the aggressors:

Six infantry positions destroyed; one shovel [preceding word in English] destroyed and another damaged; three ammunition dumps demolished; and seven RPG-7's, five Kalashnikov rifles, two machine guns, and a 60-mm mortar seized.

4. The scoundrels ruling Iran shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra with long-range artillery, martyring 1 citizen, wounding 10 others, and damaging a number of homes and shops. Mercy to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 Apr 1987

Communique No 2,646

JN191644 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,646 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's victorious forces, with God's help, Iraq's courageous leaders, and the determination of men, are moving from one victory to another, inflicting new losses and defeats each day on the aggressor scoundrels and agents of Zionism, the charlatans ruling Iran.

The following is a roundup of our combat operations for last night and today:

1. The brave knights of our helicopter gunships have continued their daring attacks on enemy units in the operational theaters. They carried out 53 combat missions, inflicting losses in life and equipment on the Khomeyniites. They also destroyed a number of enemy infantry positions and equipment before returning safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah used artillery and tanks to pound a number of selected enemy targets, inflicting massive damage on the enemy behind the lines in addition to the following known losses:

One tank burned and destroyed; a tubular launcher wrecked; four enemy soldiers killed; five ammunition dumps demolished; one infantry position and a weapons emplacement destroyed; and enemy engineering work interdicted and stopped.

3. The brave soldiers of the VII Army Corps have continued their combat operations against the aggressors, killing five soldiers, destroying four infantry positions and two vehicles, blowing up an ammunition dump, and setting fire to several enemy positions.

4. Our forces in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted losses in life on the enemy and destroyed weapons, equipment, and installations by directing strong and intensive fire against enemy positions facing them.

5. The observation posts of one of our forward units in the II Army Corps central sector spotted a group of 25 enemy soldiers. Our forces pounded them with various weapons. Most of the group was destroyed while the others fled.

6. Five enemy soldiers were killed and an observation post was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. The spiteful enemy shelled residential areas in the valiant city of Basra with long-range artillery. The bombardment damaged homes and other civilian property.

8. Escaping from the hell of the ruling Khomeyniite clique in Iran, a number of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forward units on the battlefield and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 April 1987

Ramadan Returns From Turkey, Calls Visit 'Excellent'

JN171437 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and the members of his delegation returned to Baghdad today after a 2-day visit to Turkey.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he conveyed a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Turkish President Kenan Evren on Iraq's desire to expand and promote its growing relations with Turkey. Ramadan added: The message emphasized Iraq's desire to broaden its ties with Turkey in all fields. Continuing, he said he briefed Turkish officials on developments in the Iranian aggression, its continued escalation, and the Iraqi Armed Forces' determination to destroy all Iran's human waves on the frontline.

The first deputy prime minister described his trip to Turkey as excellent. During this visit, Ramadan noted, the meetings of the seventh session of the joint committee resulted in the signing of a protocol on economic, trade, scientific, and technical collaboration. Furthermore, Ramadan explained, the bases have been laid for a distinguished and expanded form of bilateral cooperation in 1988 and the distant future. He also referred to bilateral cooperation in tourism, and in the culture and service sectors.

Ramadan pointed out that the talks were marked by cordiality and a deep sense of understanding, since they emphasized the depth of existing bilateral relations and the desire of both countries to expand bilateral cooperation and initiate long-term collaboration. He said the Turkish president asked him to pass on a message to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn highlighting his country's readiness to expand and develop comprehensive, long-term collaboration with Iraq.

The delegation accompanying Ramadan included 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, oil minister and head of the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the joint committee; the under secretry of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the under secretary of the Ministry of Trade; and a number of other officials.

Hizballah Attacks ASL at Al-Shumariyah 18 Apr

ASL Claims Victory

JN181154 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Today the Army of Southern Lebanon [ASL] once again proved its military ability to defend the areas it has been entrusted to protect, to repulse all aggression against them, and to punish all aggressors who attempt to undermine the security of these areas.

That is what Major General Antoine Lahd emphasized today during an inspection tour of ASL positions in the Al-Shumariyah and (?Al-Tayyibah) area following the intensive attack on the Al-Shumariyah post at dawn today by large groups of Hizballah gunmen and saboteurs who cooperate with them. Maj Gen Lahd warned that he will strike with a fist of steel at those who think of attacking ASL positions or undermining security in the areas the ASL dedicated itself to defend.

At about 0300 today large numbers of terrorists, estimated at 150 gunmen, attacked the ASL's Al-Shumariyah post and another IDF post in the [word indistinct] area with RPG's and medium and light automatic weapons, supported by ground defenses at the Al-Qa'iyat Bridge. The defenders of the two posts immediately returned fire with automatic weapons, tanks, and heavy artillery and compelled the attackers to retreat and flee. ASL units then combed the area and have so far found 18 bodies of the saboteurs, large quantities of weapons and ammunition, as well as blood that indicates that scores of the attackers were wounded and that there were more dead whose bodies were removed from the battlefield by the attackers.

Three ASL men were slightly wounded as a result of the clash, and they were treated in the field. [passage omitted]

Islamic Resistance Statement

NC181439 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a second statement, subsequent to its first statement released this morning, in which it details the results of an attack carried out by one of its groups today against two positions held by the Israeli occupation forces in 'Alman and Al-Shumariyah. The statement indicates that during mopping-up operations on the two positions, the Israeli enemy suffered 30-40 deaths, in addition to those who were wounded. Three Merkava tanks and all the installations in the two positions were destroyed.

The Islamic Resistance statement adds: Israeli helicopters were unable to carry out effective operations because they were confronted with intensive ground defense fire from the resistance forces. The occupation forces and their agents were also unable to perform well because of the bombardment that their positions suffered.

A military spokesman for the Israeli occupation forces admitted the attack. He claimed, however, that only four of their members were wounded and that 18 members of the resistance were killed.

Israel Negotiating Prisoner Swap for Soldiers

NC181755 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Jiryis Qawwas, official in charge of the Committee for the Defense of Palestinian Prisoners, has announced that some bargaining is under way for a swap between the Palestinian prisoners in Israel and two Israeli soldiers held by Hizballah.

AFP: Hizballah Involved

NC181950 Paris AFP in English 1929 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Damascus, April 18 (AFP) — The Moslem fundamentalist Hizbollah party is negotiating the exchange of two Israeli soldiers it is holding for an undisclosed number of Palestinians jailed in Israel, a Palestinian official said here Saturday.

Jiryis Qawwas, an official of the Committee for the Defense of Palestinian Prisoners, told a press conference "the Hizbollah, which is holding the two Israeli soldiers, is negotiating the release of Palestinian prisoners," whose names were supplied by his group.

He did not, however, say who was conducting the negotiations.

Palestinian officials say that as many as 4,500 Palestinians are jailed in Israel.

The Lebanon-based Islamic Resistance, the armed wing of Hizbollah, has claimed it captured two Israeli soldiers who were reported missing following a clash in southern Lebanon February 17. One of the two soldiers was later shown on Lebanese television.

Mr. Qawwas said, however, that the release of an Israeli pilot held by the Lebanese Moslem Shi'ite Amal militia was not part of the deal. [passage omitted]

Birri Would Attend Ministerial Meeting

NC181804 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Lawyer Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, has said: I will attend and take part in the ministerial meeting if it is held. However, he added that holding the ministerial meeting is not the solution, but an attempt to tackle some psychological complexes.

In a statement at a press interview he held today, Minister Birri said: Israel is continuing its plan. We have warned of this plan with a loud voice but, regrettably, there has been no response. We have not even noticed any Arab or international action to stop or reduce the magnitude of this plan, or even to protest against it. After having returned to the so-called border strip right in front of the eyes of the world, Israel has this time declared its return with its tanks and artillery, and, according to the latest information, with 9,000 soldiers. It is setting up a scorched strip around the security strip. Having detained more than 30 people from Hula Township, which has been under siege for a number of days, and having returned with its planes and gunboats to tighten its grip on the southern coast, its mountain, and its inhabitants, today it unleashed concentrated artillery shelling on the 'Alman area. This is in addition to the almost daily shelling of the Al-Nabatiyah area, particularly in Kafr Rumman and its vicinity.

Birri added: What is strange is that the Arab world is boasting of conferences as if they are the only alternative for (?supporting) the south and the southerners. Since the international circles and humanitarian organizations daily reiterate the same information and signals about any foreigner abducted in or outside Lebanon and, at the same time we stress our stand and condemnation of these abductions, we must remind them of the following: Our south is teeming with human beings who are suffering from abductions, repression, and deprivation. The war of annihilation is now real. Does an entire people deserve the same interest given to one abducted person from among you? Or is turning all the people into abductors what is required? [passage omitted]

Regarding his attitude toward the ministerial meeting, Minister Birri said: If the ministerial meeting is held, then I will naturally attend and take part in it, but, as usual, I want the matter to be clear to all the Lebanese. This ministerial meeting will not be a solution; it will only be an attempt to tackle some psychological complexes that might have social and security repercussions.

In regard to reports in some newspapers about a meeting to be held between him and Minister Walid Junblatt prior to the ministerial meeting, Birri answered: I met with Minister Walid Jumblatt a number of times after the Beirut incidents. We met in Damascus, as you remember, and during the meeting of the five [Muslim — FBIS] ministers. There is no problem here.

In response to a question about the committee formed by Minister Junblatt to survey the airports, Minister Birri said: Our stand on the Halat airport has been declared, and I am insisting on it without any further ado. The issue of forming a committee does not affect this stand.

Regarding the issue of the [Palestinian — FBIS] camps, he said: We are still waiting for the Palestinian promises to withdraw from east of Sidon or for them to take a clear stand saying that they want to expand outside the camps. As to the PFLP's stand on the camps war, he said: The PFLP's (?stand) is only an attempt to cover up its leaders' meeting with the Palestinian capitulationists. However, I am confident that the PFLP cadres will expose this ploy, particularly after the lifting of the camps siege.

Regarding the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP], Minister Birri said: I reiterate that we are against divisions in the SSNP. On this basis, in general I support statements made at the press conference held yesterday by the former SSNP leaders. I cannot go into details, as these are the concern of the party itself, but for the sake of reactivating this party, I hope that these leaders' appeal will find a response from the key figures.

Islamic Propagation Meeting Issues Statement

LD191437 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, the first Islamic propagation meeting in Beirut was held by participants from the Islamic Republic of Iran and a number of Muslim ulema of Lebanon. Various issues concerning Islamic propagation in Lebanon were discussed. At the final session a 10-member central committee of propagation for Lebanese territories were elected.

According to a statement issued at the meeting, it was decided that first, an international Holy Koran conference will be held in Beirut in the the blessed month of Ramadan, and second, that mosques and husayniahs [shi'ite centers for mourning ceremonies — FBIS] of Lebanon will be inspected and repaired. The need for ulema and Islamic propagators to be present, and to set up religious schools in the (Jabal Amil) region, western Biqa', and Beirut was also noted in the statement.

The statement issued by the Islamic propagation meeting pointed out that allegiance to Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, was renewed, while all deviated regimes in the lands of Islam, particularly in Iraq, and countries supporting Saddam were criticized vehemently. The statement condemned the holding of an international conference aimed at achieving conciliation between Arabs and Zionists. It said that such conferences are being set up to dismember and divide Palestine under the control of international societies for the purpose of (?correcting) secure borders for the illegitimate and occupier regime in Jerusalem.

According to the report, the meeting concluded by praising the struggles of the Islamic resistance movement in southern Lebanon.

Patriarch Sfayr Returns From Algiers 15 Apr

NC151808 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr returned to Bkirki this evening following a 4-day visit to Algeria. [passage omitted] Sfayr was quoted in the Algerian capital as being satisfied with his talks with the Algerian president, with Algeria's understanding of the Lebanese issue, and with Algerian officials' determination to help Lebanon overcome all obstacles to a solution of its crisis.

While in Algeria Patriarch Sfayr met with a number of Algerian ministers and with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, at the latter's request.

Peres: Conference To Include Direct Negotiations

TA190909 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Passover Supplement) in Hebrew 19 Apr 87 pp 3, 20

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Orli Azulay-Katz; date and place not given]

[Text][Azulay-Katz] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said he will settle accounts with you once the unity government disbands. Do you also have accounts to settle with him?

[Peres] I do not react to things he says. Mr Shamir's remarks are ones that a prime minister should avoid making. In any event, I do not settle accounts with people but with issues. At this point I am not fighting for my honor; this is assured. I am fighting on two major issues: immigration and peace, and no one will cause me to digress from the path I have taken, neither with talk nor with insults. I am working on important matters. Things of a scathing and insulting nature interest me less.

[Azulay-Katz] Do you think a government with a dual foreign policy can last?

[Peres] There may be no choice but to ask the electorate for its decision. This is not a disgrace in a parliamentary regime.

[Azulay-Katz] When?

[Peres] When the time for a decision comes, and in my opinion this will be very soon; when we have a consolidated and orderly proposal on promoting peace, and we are nearing one with giant strides.

[Azulay-Katz] What is the peace plan that in your opinion should be brought before the Cabinet?

[Peres] It stipulates direct negotiations between us and those Arab countries with which we have hostile relations: Jordan and the Palestinians, Syria, and Lebanon, although at this stage I do not expect Syria and Lebanon to join in. The negotiations would begin between an Israeli delegation on one side, and a Jordanian- Palestinian delegation on the other. The launching of such negotiations would be international: The five powers will call for peace negotiations to begin, for the Palestinian problem to be solved, and for the discussions to be conducted within bilateral geographic committees. Anyone who participates in this conference will have to accept Resolutions 242 and 338 and reject terrorism and violence. The Arabs, the Soviets, and Israel agree that the conference will not have the power to impose decisions. It will neither be able to impose solutions nor cancel agreements reached by the parties during the negotiations. This is enormous progress. We have never had such an opportunity.

[Azulay-Katz] What, then, is preventing you from presenting the plan?

[Peres] Everything still has to be phrased in an orderly fashion. This will be a plan formulated by the United States and will be acceptable to the other side and to us. Agreement exists on the main points, and now everything must be phrased in clauses.

[Azulay-Katz] And what will happen then?

[Peres] The Cabinet will then either accept the plan or each person will have to reach his own conclusions. I very much hope the Likud will accept the plan. In fact, the Likud's current positions are not its traditional ones. In 1977 they agreed to an international conference. Besides, it is difficult for me to understand: Do all the members of the Likud hold the same opinions? Do they not have individual opinions? Do they not argue among themselves? What type of party is it anyway?

[Azulay-Katz] Can one assume that when you submit your proposal the government will disband?

[Peres] Or it will accept my proposal.

[Azulay-Katz] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says your proposal is "insane."

[Peres] We will see. In my opinion it is difficult to know what position the Likud will take when I present my proposal. I am not very impressed with what they are saying: insane, a nightmare, and the like. They will have to decide if we are entering negotiations or not. All their stories claiming that the negotiations will be conducted within the framework of a conference that can impose solutions are invented. This is a false allegation. The conference will not be able to impose solutions. Direct negotiations will be conducted. What will the Likud say then? That it saw and heard nothing? That is sees and hears nothing?

[Azulay-Katz] Do you believe the Likud could withdraw from its positions and accept your proposal?

[Peres] I do not know. Perhaps. If not, we will have to approach the people; that is obvious. Incidentally, the Likud was also split in its views on the peace agreement with Egypt, and it was the Knesset majority that adopted the agreement.

[Azulay-Katz] Why have you never brought a proposal of this type to the Cabinet before?

[Peres] I have not done so because I have been able to continue to act. No one has stood in my way, and I do not need any decisions. As far as I am concerned, the matter has already been decided. A Cabinet decision and Knesset decisions exist. Only a person who wants to halt the process needs decisions.

[Azulay-Katz] Has a solution been found to the problem of PLO representation in the negotiations?

[Peres] In my opinion, yes. The PLO will not be able to participate; there will be Palestinian representatives who are not representatives of the PLO.

[Azulay-Katz] How do you feel when, while you are conducting political talks abroad, the prime minister issues statements here claiming that you are not, in fact, representing the government?

[Peres] I feel just fine and am not impressed by these statements. I am working with complete authorization. The prime minister cannot cancel Cabinet and Knesset decisions.

[Azulay-Katz] The prime minister accuses you of striving to return Israel to the 1967 borders.

[Peres] Who is making these accusations, and on what basis? To whom do I have to prove myself? Not every person who accuses another has the grounds to do so. There were people who opposed Camp David. Were they correct? What do they want — an Israel without peace? I am against returning to the 1967 borders. These are false allegations, which exemplify the demagogical language of yesterday. There are people who are trying to revive the style of the last elections. They are mistaken. In the past, harsh and demagogical language reverberated. That period is over.

[Azulay-Katz] Were you offended by Shamir's remarks?

[Peres] I cannot accept a situation in which a foreign minister travels on a mission and receives wishes of the type extended by the prime minister. However, I do not intend to deal in personal matters. The issues at hand are greater than all the people around.

[Azulay-Katz] Widespread opinion has it that if you had "something substantial," a real achievement on the issue of peace, you would have brought it up for a decision long ago.

[Peres] People are constantly saying all sorts of things about me. When I started dealing with the economy, they said: He will not achieve anything. People who behave rashly and hastily think that the minute you utter something, it works out. I am working on the peace issue and think that we are very near a positive conclusion. I believe it will be great news for the nation and for other people in the entire region.

[Azulay-Katz] Have you already decided when to bring the issue before the Cabinet?

[Peres] Soon.

[Azulay-Katz] What truth is there in the reports on a mass emigration expected from the Soviet Union?

[Peres] I think a change has been effected in the Soviet Union, and chances have been created. I know those people who say the whole world is against us. But how can they say that when the British prime minister goes to the Soviet Union and invites Begun to dine at her table, or when Shultz holds the traditional Passover meal with refuseniks and says: Next year in Jerusalem? These are events of an utmost sensitive and historic nature. They are examples of real changes, and it is impossible for part of the leadership and the media to live in yesterday's world. In fact, sometimes I think we are conducting policy with cotton in our ears and are not paying attention to the great changes that are taking place in the world.

[Azulay-Katz] Has an agreement been reached with the Soviets on the extent of the emigration?

[Peres] There are chances for a large emigration. Changes have already taken effect. In the past few months four or five times more permits were issued, and we can reach an even higher number. Progress has been made on the issues of emigration and direct flights to Israel. Two Soviet representatives dealing with Middle East issues came to Rome in order to discuss this with me at length. This shows that they are also seeking a way.

[Azulay-Katz] What is the most conspicuous change that has taken place in the Soviets' position?

[Peres] They have declared publicly that the international conference will not have the power to impose solutions. They have declared that every Jew who wishes to immigrate to Israel may do so, except for security cases, and I understand these restrictions. In addition, they have declared that the negotiations must be conducted bilaterally. The world situation has changed. The Soviets also have economic problems. They will not make new investments hastily. During my talks with the Soviets, I told them: You invested $20 billion in weapons for Egypt. What did you gain by that? Now you are investing in Syria and destroying the Soviet economy. What good is that?

[Azulay-Katz] And what changes have you found among the Arabs?

[Peres] The Arab world also understands that there is no other way but peace. I have spoken with Arab leaders. Some of my talks have been overt, others secret. I talk with them not infrequently. They also agree that the problems of the Middle East are economic ones. I asked them: What can you sell the world? Your charm? The only thing the Middle East has to sell is peace, which will attract investments.

[Azulay-Katz] Can it be understood, then, that it is the unity government that is now obstructing the path of peace?

[Peres] I have no obstacles. I have heard all their lofty talk about me — I do represent the government, I do not represent it. The fact is that not one of them dares bring before the Cabinet a proposal to halt my activity. All these remarks are simply tricks, and I am not affected by them. If my proposal is not approved by the Cabinet, then each person will have to reach his own conclusions.

[Azulay-Katz] Do you believe the Pollard affair can be concluded without the establishment of a state commission of inquiry?

[Peres] Yes, definitely. In civilized nations, I have not seen instances of commissions of inquiry being set up even in grave cases of espionage. In England there were four espionage affairs, no investigations were held, and no demands for ministerial responsibility were made. A country has to conduct secret intelligence operations, but in this case everything is exposed anyway.

[Azulay-katz] Do you expect political upheavals in the wake of the conclusions of the fact-finding committee and Knesset subcommittee investigations?

[Peres] No. Over what? If one of the intelligence services used an agent it should not have used, who decides ministerial responsibility is involved? I doubt the commissions will decide this. Responsibility should fall on the operative side. I do not foresee any upheavals or any ministerial responsibility. Perhaps the commissions will have comments here and there, but the issue has been blown out of all proportion. As early as this morning I was surprised to receive a public opinion poll from the United States. The astounding finding was that only 18 percent of the public linked the Pollard affair to Israel. This is astounding and makes me wonder whether the Israeli public receives the correct information.

[Azulay-Katz] What is your opinion on the organizing going on in your party in case some political tremor does occur and you are forced to vacate your position?

[Peres] First of all, what do you mean by organizing? Someone saw some newspaper person and decided to organize. I do not sense any organizing going on, and besides, whoever organizes has a legitimate right to do so. I have been chairman of the Labor Party for 10 years now, and I do not remember any organizing against me. The point is that some anonymous person met with two or three journalists and decided to organize. I do not attach any importance to this.

[Azulay-Katz] Several affairs broke in the past year: the Shin Bet, Vanunu, Pollard, and Iran arms affairs. What is happening to the secret services in Israel?

[Peres] In the secret services the achievements usually remain secret and the mishaps become public. Even more serious mishaps occurred in the past, but never were they handled so publicly. Were one of these to happen now, the whole country would be up in arms. The Shin Bet affair was investigated and conclusions were reached, regarding the political echelon too, which was pronounced innocent. The Vanunu affair was an accident. The Iran affair does not belong to this category. A political decision was made, and it can be argued whether it was a good one or not. I think Israel behaved correctly when it decided to cooperate with the United States.

[Azulay-Katz] But in the light of these affairs, Israel has been painted as a society that deals in arms trade and espionage.

[Peres] The society that has been painted is one that is forced to deal with wars and terrorism. We are not Sweden or the Netherlands. I have here a quotation from the speech by the historian Paul Johnson, who wrote that Israel was forced to establish, through perseverence, a large and sophisticated state security system. There is no one in Israel to write what this one Gentile understands.

[Azulay-Katz] Was the forum of prime ministers [Peres, Shamir, and Rabin — FBIS] set up because of the need of each to protect the other in the wake of the mutual dependency that developed in the latest affairs?

[Peres] No such forum exists. There is a forum comprising the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister, who each happen or happened to have been prime ministers. No dependency was created, and we do not deal in cover-ups. Three people sit together, make decisions, and bear the responsibility. In a normal government all the ministers bear collective responsibility.

[Azulay-Katz] It is widely believed that the unity government has exhausted itself but continues to exist because you and Shamir are afraid to face the voters.

[Peres] What are you accusing me of? I am not afraid and am ready and willing to face the voters. The question is not over some poetic description of the government exhausting itself. The questions are the peace process and immigration. If Israel does not support the peace process, the government should be dissolved. I am not afraid of anything, but I am not prepared to resort to tricks in order to make an impression on someone.

[Azulay-Katz] Loud voices have been heard emanating from your party in support of dissolving the government.

[Peres] I cannot prefer impression over substance. I cannot sit and make an impression all day long. I am not afraid. I fulfilled the rotation agreement. Now, if people want to implement a rotation over the political issue, then I would say the government has not exhausted itself; it has burned itself out.

[Azulay-Katz] When you were prime minister, you were strict about style. What do feel about Moda'i calling you a traitor, and Shamir saying you are behaving insanely?

[Peres] I think people who use such style will ultimately be their own victims. I do not intend to divert from a civilized style.

[Azulay-Katz] Polls predict that after the elections a similar situation will be created: a draw between the Alignment and the Likud. In the light of past experience, would you again recommend a unity government?

[Peres] I expect that in the next elections our path, our party, will gain a great victory.

Hizballah Members Killed in Security Strip

TA181312 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Eighteen terrorists from the Hizballah organization were killed this morning when they attacked South Lebanese Army posts and an IDF force near the village of Al-Qantarah in the central sector of the security strip. Four IDF soldiers were slightly wounded by shrapnel and were treated on the spot.

Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports the attack started at 0400, when dozens of terrorists attacked two posts. After being repelled the terrorists were chased, forcing them to retreat beyond the borders of the security strip. In the subsequent searches 18 bodies were found, as well as large quantities of personal arms, ammunition, weapons, and RPG launchers.

The commander of the Northern Command arrived at the scene immediately after the beginning of the incident and joined the search forces. Our correspondent notes that this morning the terrorists fired mortar shells toward the area, but there were no injuries. At present the area is calm.

Three Universities, Teachers College Closed

TA191735 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The Military Government has closed down the Al-Azhar University in Gaza for 1 week following today's violent demonstration, during which a border policeman and two demonstrators were slightly wounded. Military sources claim that the students stoned the soldiers, burned the Israeli flag, chanted nationalist slogans, and hoisted the PLO flag.

Our correspondent notes that in the last few days the Bi'r Zayt and the Al-Najah universities, as well as the Ramallah Teachers College, have been closed down.

Palestinians Oppose Amman Agreement Cancellation

TA190741 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Apr 87 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Important personages in the territories have pleaded with the PLO not to cancel the Amman Agreement with King Husayn during the deliberations of the Palestine National Council scheduled to open in Algeria tomorrow.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has openly called on the PLO not to cancel the agreement. He told our correspondent that the great majority of inhabitants of the territories support the agreement and that its cancellation would lead to a worsening of relations between the PLO and Jordan, and this would have a negative affect on the situation in the territories.

In his view, if the PLO has any reservations about any clause of the agreement, there can be discussions about introducing changes, but it should not be canceled. In his opinion Jordan did not suspend the agreement but announced a halt to contacts with the PLO leadership. Jordan is interested in continuing with the agreement, which is in the interests of both sides. [passage omitted]

MK Says Peres Initiated Contacts With 'Arafat

TA181903 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Hayim Kaufman, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, says he has received reports from elements who have recently met with Saudi businessman 'Adnan Khashoggi from which it transpires that Khashoggi insists that Mr Peres initiated through him contacts with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. 'Adnan Khashoggi reported this to Robert MacFarlane, former White House official. Kaufman wants Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to confirm or deny the claim that he initiated contacts with 'Arafat.

New IDF Chief of Staff Appointed 19 Apr

TA190712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] This morning Dan Shomron was appointed the 13th IDF chief of staff at the Prime Minister's Office. Our military correspondent has reported that he intends to implement several important appointments in the Army.

African Parliaments Union Meets in Bamako

Executive Session Opens

AB131802 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The 19th session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliaments Union, UPA, opened this morning at the conference hall of the National Assembly under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Professor Mamadou Dembele. Present at the opening ceremony were members of the party Central Executive Bureau, members of government, representatives of international organizations, and many parliamentarians who have come to represent their countries. [passage omitted]

This session will continue until 1200 on 15 April and will be followed by the conference. Among the items on the agenda, the Malian delegation has introduced a resolution on economic difficulties and the right of landlocked countries to access to the sea, a problem which directly concerns us. [passage omitted]

Libyan Membership Debated

AB141919 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] The 19th session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliaments Union, UPA, continues at the National Assembly. This morning UPA delegations discussed draft resolutions on the contributions of parliaments to the solution of the critical situation in southern Africa.

The draft resolution on this was debated at length this morning. What can be garnered from the debate is that parliaments should urge their respective governments to establish a support fund to strengthen the economic and financial capacity of the Frontline States. The parliamentarians called on the United Nations to accelerate the decolonization process in Namibia on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78. In this draft document, the delegates appealed to the international community to assume its responsibility so that South Africa will stop its aggression against the Frontline States.

To summarize, I would say this morning's debate stressed, first of all, African states' assistance to southern Africa and also the need for the international community to form a solidarity fund. The second point on which the parliamentarians dwelt is the establishment of a parliamentary information commission within the UPA. This body, which will be as large as possible, will go to Angola to assess the situation there and give Africa's full support to the people of Southern Africa fighting the racist Pretoria regime.

The idea of parliamentary action in the face of the critical situation in the southern part of the conference was introduced by Angola and Zimbabwe. Let us listen to what (Mr Akabassa), deputy speaker of the Zimbabwe National Assembly, had to say about this issue:

[Begin recording in English fading into French translation] Well, I would like to say that the contribution of African parliaments is a problem, as the Government of South Africa always thinks that Africans cannot govern their countries and that African parliaments will have failed in their role if they are unable to help their brothers in South Africa achieve some sort of independence. We know that South Africa is a country supported by big powers like the United States and Britain, but we, as Africans, should try to help one another in this hour of need for the sake of our brothers and sisters fighting in South Africa. Thousands of people are dying in South Africa and children under 12 years of age are imprisoned without trial. Therefore, it would not be right for African countries to simply fold their arms and watch what is happening in South Africa. Our aid should be material, financial, and even technical. [end recording]

Other items on the agenda include applications by some countries to join the UPA. In this regard, it should be noted that Libya's application constitutes a real headache for the union. The question of membership for the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah was raised at last year's meeting in Cotonou. However, the UPA referred this application to the Executive Committee in Djibouti and the issue has now been raised again at the Bamako conference.

Before ending, I would like to inform you that there is a newspaper on parliaments in Africa. This newspaper is published under the directorship of Do Rego, an Ivorian journalist. The latest edition covering January, February, and March deals with, among other things, discussions at the 18th session of the Executive Committee in Djibouti, Libya's membership in the union, and the major issues to be discussed at the Bamako conference.

Executive Session Ends

AB160648 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The 19th session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliaments Union, UPA, ended early this afternoon under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Prof Mamadou Dembele. This session, which opened on Monday, [13 April], has, over the past 3 days, examined draft resolutions submitted to it for approval. Issues examined include food self-sufficiency and the right of landlocked and semi-landlocked countries to have access to the sea.

Closing the session, the chairman of the Executive Committee, who is also the leader of the Djibouti delegation, Askar Waberi, stressed the assiduousness and punctuality of delegates during the deliberations:

[Begin recording] Here we are at the end of our deliberations. For 2 days, you have attended our meetings with punctuality and participated assiduously in our deliberations. Each of you responded favorably to our invitations; each of you made his contribution [words indistinct]. As the saying goes: All is well that ends well. I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all that we have achieved as well as for the atmosphere of perfect cordiality and mutual understanding that characterized our deliberations.

On your behalf, I would like to express our gratitude to the government and people of Mali for agreeing to host the current session of the Executive Committee [passage indistinct]. I would also like to extend our sincerest thanks and deepest gratitude to General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People and president of the republic, for his constant concern for our institution. Our thanks also go to the members of the standing committees of the National Assembly, led by His Excellency Sidiki Diarra, as well as all Mali's parliamentarians and people. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

The (?main) conference opens tomorrow at 1000 under the chairmanship of the head of state, Gen Moussa Traore. The conference is scheduled to end on Friday at 1730 and will be followed by a news conference in the hall of the National Assembly.

UPA Conference Opens 16 Apr

AB170906 Bamako Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The 10th conference of the African Parliaments Union [UPA] opened this morning in the deliberations hall of the National Assembly under the chairmanship of the head of state, General Moussa Traore. Present at the opening session were members of the Central Executive Bureau and government and representatives of international organizations. Addressing the opening session, the speaker of our National Assembly, Sidiki Diarra, began by expressing our country's pride in the esteem and trust placed in it by the whole of Africa, before welcoming our guests. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

His Excellency Romain Vilon Guezo, speaker of the revolutionary National Assembly of Benin and current chairman of the UPA conference, who spoke next, first sent the fraternal greetings of all UPA member-states to the Malian people and took stock of activities during his mandate, which has been characterized by a persistent growth in arrears in the contributions from member-states. [passage omitted]

The opening of this 10th conference was followed by the election of a new UPA chairman, the speaker of our National Assembly, Sidiki Diarra, who took over from his Beninese counterpart. In a speech, the speaker of Mali's National Assembly said he was aware of the great responsibility bestowed on him. He also noted that would spare no efforts in working toward the success of future union activities, adding to what has already been accomplished by his predecessors. The conference is scheduled to end tomorrow at 1730 under the chairmanship of the head of state, Gen Moussa Traore. This closing session will be broadcast live on radio and television, and will be followed by a news conference.

Conference Ends 17 Apr

AB180936 Bamako Domestic Service in French
2015 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The African Parliaments Union [UPA] conference ended its deliberations this afternoon under the chairmanship of the head of state, General Moussa Traore, in the presence of members of the Central Executive Bureau, the government, and representatives of international organizations. In his closing address, Sidiki Diarra, the current UPA chairman and speaker of Mali's National Assembly, thanked his African brothers for choosing Mali to head the union. He gave the parliamentary delegates assurances of his courage and determination to discharge his duties. This session, he said, was extremely significant, as issues of vital importance to Africa were discussed.

[Begin Diarra recording] The Bamako session was of extreme importance because among the topics considered were current issues of vital importance to Africa, including economic difficulties faced by landlocked countries, food self-sufficiency in Africa, African economies confronted with the world economic crisis and its consequences, and parliamentary action in the critical situation in southern Africa. All these topics were examined and discussed by each of you in a highly responsible manner worthy of praise. (?This is our view), which is extremely important and must be emphasized, for it demonstrates that despite its young age, our institution, which has just celebrated its 10th year, has already shown proof of its vitality, which augurs well for its future. We were able to harmonize our positions on all topics on the agenda of this 10th session and made common decisions in a spirit of true solidarity. We can be proud of the results obtained, results that crown the tireless efforts made by each and every one of you throughout the past 5 days, motivated mainly by the desire to make a valuable contribution to our shared objective. [passage omitted]

We recommend to our governments that they coordinate their policies on producing and marketing their exports to deal with the world economic crisis and its consequences, to develop [words indistinct] to help establish a regional climate that favors a strategy for food self-sufficiency, and to draw up plans to ensure food self-sufficiency in Africa. We also emphasized what our action as African parliamentarians should be toward the critical situation in southern Africa. To translate our recommendations into action, we have decided to set up a parliamentary information commission in the near future. That body will visit Angola and other Frontline States to seek information on the prevailing situation in those countries and express our total solidarity and (?that of Africa) with the people of southern Africa, who are fighting against the racist Pretoria regime. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Gabon Signs African Oil Producers Accord

AB191005 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Gabon has formally signed the accord setting up the African Petroleum Producers Association, APPA. The statute was approved in January at APPA's inaugural meeting in Nigeria. Five member-countries initialed the draft statute at the Lagos conference during which the Algerian minister of energy and petrochemicals was appointed the president. [passage omitted].

ALGERIA

Foreign Ministry Statement on Moroccan Wall

LD192029 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] A spokesman for the Algerian Foreign Affairs Ministry has made a statement regarding the situation on the Mauritanian-Saharan border:

Algeria follows with the closest attention the developments stemming from Morocco's construction of another wall on the border between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the SDAR, the completion of which has been officially announced in Rabat. The spokesman also indicated that Algeria is in permanent contact with the Mauritanian Government and is particularly sensitive to the latter's attitude on this matter and shares its assessment of the dangerous situation thus created. The consequences for the territorial integrity of this fraternal country and for the security of its population centers and economic installations, which find themselves defenseless and directly exposed to military operations linked with the conflict imposed on the Western Sahara people, are grave.

This new blatant demonstration of Morocco's military operation carries within itself the seed of escalation, which is dangerous for peace and the stability of the entire subregion and represents a serious attack on all [word indistinct] efforts for a peaceful and just political solution to the fraticidal conflict in Western Sahara. Algeria [word indistinct] to Mauritania the attachment to the ideas and principles of the treaty of fraternity and concord, as well as to the decolonization of Western Sahara and its faith in a greater, stable, united and nonaligned Maghreb, conveys its full solidarity and assures it of its total support in this new trial imposed upon it, the Foreign Ministry spokesman concluded.

Bendjedid Holds Talks With Soviet Air Force Chief

LD162147 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received a delegation from the European Parliament today. The reception was also attended by Rabah Bitat, president of the People's National Assembly.

In addition, the head of state spoke with Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, commander in chief of the Soviet Air Force and deputy defense minister. He is leading a military delegation on an official visit. General Ardel Malek Guenaizia, head of the Algerian Air Force, [title as heard] was present as well.

Soviet Delegation Departs

LD170214 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 16 Apr (APS) — The Soviet military delegation led by Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, commander in chief of the Soviet Air Force, and deputy minister of defense, left Algiers last night following a 5-day official visit. During their stay, the members of the Soviet delegation held talks on bilateral cooperation with senior army and party officials.

Chellufi To Lead Military Delegation To USSR

LD192350 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and general secretary of the party, met yesterday [19 April] at the Presidency with Brigadier Mustafa Chellufi, general secretary of the National Defense Ministry, on the eve of his departure for Moscow. He is leading a military delegation on a visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Defense Ministry.

PDRY's Al-Bid Arrives; Met by Messaadia

LD190355 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] At the invitation of the FLN Party, a delegation of the PDRY Socialist Party led by Secretary General Salim al-Bid has arrived in Algiers. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia.

Bendjedid Receives Composite Palestinian Group

LD192216 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received a Palestinian delegation today consisting of the president of the PLO Executive Council, Yasir 'Arafat; the general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Dr Habbash; and the DFLP general secretary, Nayif Hawatimah. The meeting took place in the presence of the official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat and Sadek Zouaten.

Bendjedid Receives Bahrain's Al-Mu'ayyad

JN131820 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, April 13 (WAKH) — Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid met today with Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad now visiting Algeria. Bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting which was attended by Algerian Information Minister Bachir Rouis.

Al-Mu'ayyad, Rouis Confer

JN131815 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, April 13 (WAKH) — Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad held talks here today with his Algerian counterpart Bachir Rouis.

Rouis welcomed Al-Mu'ayyad and expressed hope that the visit will allow the two countries to exchange opinions and coordinate information policies.

"We hope an information protocol will be signed during the session," said the Algerian information minister pointing to the distinguished relations between Bahrain and Algeria.

In his speech, Al-Mu'ayyad said the media could help shed light on the countries' civilization.

The Bahraini minister pointed to the possibility of exchanging television programmes between the two countries and affirmed the importance of boosting bilateral information relations.

The Bahraini and Algerian ministers held a separate talks session earlier today, followed by a plenary session attended by members of the two countries' delegations,

The Bahraini minister visited the Arab centre for news and programmes exchange in Algiers. The centre is affiliated to the Arab Broadcasting Union.

Al-Mu'ayyad was briefed on transmission and reception equipment and listened to an explanation from officials there about the news exchange. He hailed efforts of workers in the centre and wished them success.

LIBYA

PDRY Party Leader Al-Bid Arrives; Met by Jallud

LD172100 Tripoli JANA in English 1100 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 17, *Jamahirayah News Agency* — Mr 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the secretary general of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party in the Democratic Republic of Yemen, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli yesterday in a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

A massive welcome was given to Mr al-Bid and Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud headed the party receiving him.

Taking part in the welcoming ceremony were Dr Rajab Abu Dabbus, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Information, Culture and Revolutionary Orientation, a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, heads of diplomatic mission accredited to Tripoli and the ambassador of Yemen and his staff.

Mr al-Bid is accompanied by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, the foreign minister, Dr Salim 'Umar Bukayr, member of the Central Committee, Muhammed 'Ali Salah, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the party in the county of Abin [name as received]

Mr 'Ali Salim al-Bid said, on his arrival to Tripoli International Airport, our visit to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah comes as expression of solidarity with Libyan Arab people in countering imperialism and Zionism and their schemes. This visit coincides with the first anniversary of the aborted American Atlantic barbaric aggression against Great Jamahiriyah.

He added "While we express pleasure and satisfaction at our visit of this sisterly country to discuss bilateral relations and ways to consolidate them as well as Arab matters, we are confident that we will make headways towards unifying our efforts so as to accomplish Arab solidarity against imperialism and Zionism and their tools. We hail the positive and constructive role which was — and still [is] — played by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the leadership of the great Al-Fatih revolution towards the unity of Palestinian resistance on anti-imperialist and Zionist bases and their tools as well as their liquidatory schemes against the Arab revolution. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD181540 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of the PDRY, and his accompanying delegation. After this, an enlarged working session was held and was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Brothers 'Umran Hamuda, (?acting) secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, Muhammad al-Madani al-Bukhari, secretary of the general people's for the treasury [name and title as heard] and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Aden.

It was attended on the fraternal Yemeni side by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party and foreign minister; Dr Salim 'Umar Bukayr, member of the Central Committee of the party; Brother Qa'id Muhammad 'Ali Alah, member of the Central Committee of the party and first secretary of the Party Organization Committee of (Abin) Governorate; Brother 'Alawi al-Saqqaf; and the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the PDRY in the Great Jamahiriyah.

After this, a closed session was held between the brother leader of the revolution and Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of the PDRY.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah at the invitation of the brother leader of the revolution.

Makes Departure Statement

LD182050 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, made a statement to JANA before leaving the Great Jamahiriyah. In his remarks, he expressed his satisfaction with the results of the visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, and he affirmed that relations between the great al-Fatih revolution and the revolution in Yemen are longstanding and becoming more firmly established.

He added: I discussed several issues with Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. We expressed our solidarity with

Libya in its resistance to all imperialist and Zionist conspiracies, and we have declared our full support for Libya. We have also expressed our great satisfaction with the Great Jamahiriyah's accomplishments regarding Palestinian unity, particularly the Tripoli agreement, which was put together under the auspices of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

He went on to say: We consider this step to find a minimum degree of Arab solidarity to face the imperialist and Zionist attack to be a good one. He noted: We will visit the Great Jamahiriyah again, and the contacts between us will be maintained so we can exchange views. We tell our brothers in Libya that their correct position, which is anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist, has driven the United States and other evil forces to a state of hysteria over the Great Jamahiriyah. He affirmed that the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and its great revolution are capable of answering imperialist aggression and continuing their struggle with high morale.

Jallud, Others at Departure

LD181541 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Apr (JANA) — Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli at noon today after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. A large ceremony was held for the guest. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud headed those who saw him off.

Brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee; Dr Rajab Abu Dabbus, secretary of the General People's Committee for Information, Culture and Revolutionary Guidance; Dr Mustafa al-Zaydi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Health; Eng Mubarak al-Shamikh, secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport; a number of Libyan Army officers; heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah; and the ambassador of the PDRY and his staff were also among those who took part.

Algeria's Messaadia Arrives on Visit 15 Apr

Met by Jallud

LD151348 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat in fraternal Algeria, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud was at the head of the welcoming party for Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia on his arrival at Tripoli International Airport. [passage omitted] In a statement to JANA, Brother Messaadia expressed his pleasure at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah, noting that his trip is in line with the fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD162013 Tripoli JANA in English 1827 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 16, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the Revolution received Mohamed Cherif Messaadia the head of Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee and member of the Political Bureau of the Party of the National Liberation Front of Algeria who handed him a letter from President Chadli Bendjedid concerning the efforts exerted to achieve the unity of the Palestine revolution's factions and steps taken to realise the Arab nation's unity.

The meeting was attended by the ambassador of Algeria to Great Jamahiriyah and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria.

Makes Statement, Departs

LD162326 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this evening at the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was seen off at Tripoli International Airport by Brother Staff Major Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud; Dr Rajab Abu Dabbus, secretary of the General People's Committee for Information, Culture, and Revolutionary Guidance; and the staff of the Algerian Embassy.

Brother Messaadia made a statement to JANA in which he said:

[Begin recording] Thank you. As I said on my arrival at the airport, bearing a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to the brother leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and I delivered this message. [sentence as heard] This trip was also an opportunity, like the presence of an Algerian delegation which arrived earlier, at the level of the political leadership, a party delegation and also an economic one. [sentence as heard] Yesterday and today a deep, fruitful [word indistinct] dialogue took place on the work undertaken for some time by Algeria and the Jamahiriyah, a unionist action, or an Algerian-Libyan union within the framework of the Arab Maghreb, which will be the start of the creation of a united Arab Maghreb and the achievement of a united Arab nation as a whole. We have made some very positive strides forward in this area. In addition, this action was accompanied by regular work, the establishment of contact between apparatuses in the two countries and in the economic field, as well. All this is a consolidation of this effort and I believe we have made very positive steps in all fields. We are determined and confident about the common continued action for the achievement of all these noble objectives. Thank you. [end recording]

Algerian Envoy Gives Al-Qadhdhafi Bendjedid Letter

LD140918 Tripoli JANA in English 0808 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 14, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Yesterday the leader of the revolution received Abdelqader Hadjar the ambassador of sisterly Algeria to Great Jamahiriyah who handed him a letter from President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria in connection with the matters of the moment.

Mauritanian Foreign Minister N'Diayane Arrives

LD180919 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Apr (JANA) — Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, foreign affairs and cooperation minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent, Maj Mohamed Lemine stressed the deep and brotherly relations existing between the Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Mauritania.

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD190102 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who is a personal envoy of the Mauritanian president and chairman of the CMSN.

The brother leader of the revolution has also received Pogos Akopov, ambassador of the USSR to the Great Jamahiriyah, who gave him a message from the Soviet leadership.

Economic Talks Held With Iranian Officials

LD190406 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, April 18, IRNA — The first round of talks between the Iranian economic delegation, headed by Foreign Ministry Director-General for Economic Affairs Mahmud Vaezi, and Libyan officials was held here Saturday.

At the meeting, the two sides welcomed the resumption of economic talks between Iran and Libya, emphasising the need for further cooperation.

Representatives from Libya's General People's Committees for Foreign Liaison, Petroleum, Industries, Foreign Investments, Economy and Trade attended the meeting.

The two sides later pursued the letters of understanding signed between the two countries' officials for economic, trade and industrial affairs earlier in the session.

The Libyan officials welcomed the Iranian delegation's arrival, which coincided with the first anniversary of the U.S. attack on Libya, stressing that Iran and Libya would always remain together.

Solidarity Conference Denounces U.S. Bombing

LD171438 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Statement issued by delegates at World Conference for Solidarity with the Libyan people in Tripoli on 16 April]

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Apr [dateline as received] — The World Conference for Solidarity with the people of the Great Jamahiriyah ended its meetings in Tripoli yesterday evening. The conference was organized by the International Secretariat for Solidarity with the Libyan Arab People and their central cause, Palestine. The delegates have issued a statement denouncing the treacherous aggression by imperialism against the Libyan Arab people, and affirmed that that aggression was directed against the international leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and was aimed at intimidating the Libyan Arab people because of the liberational and revolutionary role of the Great Jamahiriyah, which has become an example for the world peoples to follow. The following is the statement:

We, the delegations representing the four corners of the world, have met in Tripoli to denounce and condemn the treacherous attack by U.S. imperialism against the people of the Jamahiriyah on 15 April, 1986. This barbaric aggression, which the whole world knows about, was an aggression directed at the assassination of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the intimidation of the Libyan Arab people, because of the liberational and revolutionary role of the Jamahiriyah, which has become an example for the world peoples to follow.

The attack failed to achieve all its objectives. On this occasion we stand humble in memory of the men, women and children who have fallen as a result of this terroristic attack, and declare our solidarity with their relatives and with the Libyan Arab people.

We call upon all those who support freedom and justice in the world to join us in denouncing this criminal act by U.S. imperialism with the help of its allies, particularly the Thatcher government in Britain.

We are aware that the bombers which attacked Tripoli and Banghazi carried with them the aggressive U.S. imperialist policy of interference in the affairs of the world for many years to come, because imperialism refuses to understand the meaning of independence to the nations that have liberated themselves, and will not allow their peoples to fall victims to the avarice of world capitalism.

Imperialism, in particular the United States, looks forward to crushing the glittering ideal which the Great Jamahiriyah has set for the newly independent countries: As soon as the white Libyan Arab revolution was staged in 1969, U.S. imperialism was ordered to shut down its numerous bases, pack its bags and leave the country. That was the greatest liberational action witnessed by the world in recent decades.

This sets an example that should be followed by many peoples. The U.S. Armed Forces do not use the bases they have overseas just for threatening aggression, but also to protect the interests of Western banks and financial institutions.

We are sending out this message because we believe it vital to inform the world peoples, particularly those from among whom we have come, about Libya's stance of struggle for the preservation of world peace and the safeguarding of respect for the sovereignty of peoples.

Peace can only be realized through the frustration, halting, and defeat of imperialist aggression. For imperialism threatens Palestine, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Angola, and Mozambique. The Great Jamahiriyah, which is valiantly struggling against imperialism, has declared its solidarity with the heroic peoples of these countries in their insistence for freedom and independence.

The participating delegations reiterate their support for what the Jamahiriyah does for the Palestine revolution and for Lebanon.

There can never be peace in the Middle East as long as the land of Palestine remains occupied by Zionism, as long as the Palestinian people are deprived of the right to self-determination, to return to their land, and the right to establish an independent state under the leadership of the PLO.

The delegates salute the initiative of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and President Chadli Bendjadid for the unification of the Palestinian revolutionary groups.

U.S. imperialism finances and arms the Zionist enemy. Libya fully supports the liberation struggle of the Palestinian Arab people. Wherever there is a struggle for freedom and justice, be it in South Africa, Latin or Central America, the Caribbean, or the Near East, we find that the United States supports, bolsters, and arms the oppressors of the peoples in these countries.

In all his stances and actions, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi expresses the determination of the Jamahiriyah people and declares their solidarity with all the strugglers for freedom, justice, peace, and progress. The world must realize who the peaceseekers are and who the oppressors of the peoples are on a worldwide scale.

We declare our support and readiness to stand with all we possess for the sake of defeating imperialism, Zionism, and reaction.

On the road to the triumph of freedom and the bolstering of peace and security in the world, the delegations participating in the world conference for solidarity with the Jamahiriyah people salute once more the national and international leader, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Jamahiriyah people, and call on the world peoples to show greater understanding of the experience and role of the pioneering Jamahiriyah, with regard to the authority of the people and the people's rule of themselves by themselves — a phenomenon which has frightened the hostile circles and which is one of the most important causes of aggression.

The participants in the conference, having been able to learn the facts, affirm the importance of the development experience and the cultural achievements made on various levels for the good of the Libyan Arab people, and in the service of the cause of peace, security, and stability in the Arab homeland, Africa, the Mediterranean, and thereby in the services of world peace.

The participants have agreed on a program of solidarity with the Libyan Arab people, which includes the following:

1. To mark the anniversary every year internationally and locally as follows:

a) To organize an international activity in one of the capitals, which could be either a scientific seminar, a conference of solidarity, or an international march, etc.

b) To organize various activities by progressive forces in the world: articles, programs, posters, exhibitions, marches, etc.

2. To include the aims, for which the people of the Jamahiriyah and the Arab nation are fighting, in the programs of democratic forces; to respond to the campaign of misinformation and slander being hatched by colonialist and Zionist circles against the people of the Jamahiriyah.

3. To mark, on 15 April, solidarity with the Libyan Arab people.

4. To call on the United States to compensate the Libyan Arab people for the military aggression launched against it; to call on the United Nations and appropriate international organizations to endorse this claim.

5. To launch a full campaign of awareness in Europe in order to explain the dangers of imperialist policies, the threats they are posing for international security and peace, and to establish peaceful relations in the Mediterranean and Europe.

6. To highlight the importance of depicting the economic and social development experience in the great Jamahiriyah as an evidence of the aspiration of the Libyan people to build its future, and to contribute to the peace process in the region and throughout the world.

7. To use available international and democratic platforms to voice support for the Jamahiriyah on every occasion in the face of colonialist propaganda campaigns and publicity.

8. To link the struggle of the Libyan Arab people with the struggle of the Arab nation, all international movements of liberation and world forces of peace and democracy, since they are all in confrontation with one common enemy, which is U.S. imperialism and its allies.

9. To work toward establishing programs of solidarity in all arenas by friendly democratic forces; to exchange views and expertise between these forces; to establish committees of friendship with the Libyan Arab people.

Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD171951 Tripoli JANA in English 1826 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 17, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The participants in the international conference for solidarity with the people of Great Jamahiriyah sent, at the end of their proceedings, a message to the leader of the revolution. Text as follows:

Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution:

The international conference for solidarity with the people of Jamahiriyah have the pleasure to convey to you, at the end of their proceedings, their high appreciation to the international role played by the people of Great Jamahiriyah spearheaded by your pioneering revolutionary leadership.

On the first anniversary of the U.S. imperialist barbaric attack on Great Jamahiriyah, all the groups of liberation movements and democratic forces throughout the world would like to reassert the following:

First — We are not going to confine ourselves to condemnation of this vicious aggression against Great Jamahiriyah and its people, for we have done that when the aggression took place. We declare that an act like that shall not be forgotten like any other as it will rmeain a stigma on the forehead of the U.S. Administration which the years will never remove. This makes it necessary for the American people and public opinion in Europe, especially in Britain, to take stands which may prevent the repetition of such act which represents the behaviour violating all international laws and basic human values.

Second — Our meeting in this conference on the soil of Great Jamahiriyah on the 1st anniversary of the aggression expresses our tangible readiness to stand by your legitimate struggle for peoples' rights and their progress. You are no longer an Arab leader only but a man with a just and human message for the end of the 20th century.

Third — As you embody these values, the U.S. Administration attempt to assassinate you by intensifying their attack on your residence expressing the dark imperialist hatred and misleading slogans raised by American imperialism on human rights in a bid to control other people's and spread terror on earth and in outer space which is the real organised terrorism and not the struggle for freedom as that administration would like to claim. [sentence as received]

Fourth — We support your legitimate struggle for the just Arab causes spearheaded by the Palestinian people's cause who are deprived of their land and homeland and we consider your stand by the Palestinian Arab people and the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America as a medal of honour for you and pride for the steadfast people of Great Jamahiriyah. [sentence as received]

O leader, the international conference of solidarity with the people of Great Jamahiriyah stands by you in your great march so as all your objectives are realised and freedom would be enjoyed by all world peoples and genuine and just peace prevails throughout the globe.

International Forum Issues 'Political Statement'

LD191522 Tripoli JANA in English 1410 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli Al-Tayr 19, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The political secretariat of the international forum against imperialism, Zionism, reaction and fascism issued a statement at the end of its fourth ordinary session held in Misratah yesterday issued a political statement [sentence as received]. Text as follows:

First.

The political secretariat of the international forum salutes the organizations, movements and countries which sent delegates and asserts the need to complete the structure of the political secretariat through the invitation of member organizations, movements and countries to appoint delegates for them to work at the headquarters of the forum and the forthcoming meeting of the political committee the [as received] deadline for replies.

Second.

The political secretariat discussed a number of important international issues and the acute escalation of confrontation between the camp of freedom and liberation and the imperialist camp and asserted the following:

1 — Great Jamahiriyah is the international forum for the camp of liberation and freedom. It is the command of international revolution and defending it is a legitimate self defence deriving its sacred legitimacy from the defence of the international revolution spearheaded by the internationalist revolutionary leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi considering that collective struggle is the comprehensive method in countering the imperialist camp.

2 — The condemnation of the savage and barabaric Atlantic aggression against the people of Great Jamahiriyah and consider the criminal and cowardly act against the life of the internationalist revolutionary leader and his family as a serious precedent which should be incriminating so as to put Reagan and Thatcher and those who took part in the aggression before an international masses trial. It is decided to consider the 15th of Al-Tayr /April/ as the day of unity and solidarity of all world revolutionary movements.

3 — The condemnation of Arab reactionary regimes in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco for their puppet role and protection of imperialist, Zionist and racist interests in the Mediterranean, Africa and Asia and the promotion by these puppet regimes of the so-called international peace conference which constitutes a surrender of the legitimate rights fo the Palestinian people and their right to return to their usurped Palestinian Arab territory.

4 — Condemnation of Atlantic imperialist military presence in Europe and the Mediterranean being a form of state terrorism and the threats it poses to international peace and security. To support peace forces, organizations and movements fighting for an end of the presence of such bases and their state terrorism.

5 — The condemnation of American imperialist attempts aimed at the siege of revolutionary movement in Latin America and the Caribbean and consolidation of alliance with revolutionary forces in the region.

6 — The consolidation of unity with the Chadian progressive forces and condemnation of French American imperialist presence in Chad and that presence's alliance with reactionary

African regimes in a bid to to turn Chad into a base for imperialism, Zionism, racism and reaction.

7 — The condemnation of barbaric crimes and genocide conducted by the Pretoria racist regime against the people of South Africa and the frontline states and the deploration of imperialist Atlantic Zionist backing for this racist regime and to work for the escalation of confrontation so as to liberate that part of Africa.

8 — Escalation of press, instigative and mobilization confrontation against the imperialist camp and the use of all available information means towards that end.

9 — While watching the escalation and the danger of imperialist, Zionist and racist expansion of in southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean and the growing struggle role of revolutionary forces and movements in assertion of the peoples of the region freedom from the remnants of French imperialism, imperialist influence and subjugation to NATO, the political secretariat of the international forum salutes the revolutionary initiative by progressive movements and organizations in the Southeast of Asia and the Indian Ocean region who gathered and held their conference in Great Jamahiriyah in implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the second international general congress of the international forum. While the secretariat salutes this conference, it affirms its participation in the proceedings of the conference and its practical support for the revolutionary decisions and programmes which it may decide.

JANA Censures MENA Report on Warning to Sudan

LD171803 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 16 April (JANA) — The Egyptian Government's news agency, MENA, has quoted Abbas Koute, agent Habre's representative in the Sudanese capital, as warning the Sudanese Government against establishing good relations with the Great Jamahiriyah. The Egyptian Government's news agency has also quoted the representative of hireling Habre as saying: "Libya is recruiting some Sudanese and Chadian elements in the Revolutionary Committees Movement, and these elements are fomenting trouble in the Darfur region."

The fact that such a warning to the Sudanese Government has been reported by the Egyptian Government's news agency proves anew the alignment of the Egyptian regime with the rebellious clique in Ndjamena and the attempts by this regime — which is linked with imperialist circles and tarnished with the shame of defeat and capitulation — to sabotage the fraternal relations linking the Libyan Arab people with their brothers, the Sudanese people.

Furthermore, the fact that the Egyptian Government's news agency has quoted hireling Habre's representative in Khartoum and reported his warnings at this time means that the Egyptian regime has yet to shake off its complex of trying to impose hegemony on the Sudanese Government, and its idea that Sudan is its satellite no matter what.

Any impartial observer could see that the Egyptian Government news agency's act toward a sovereign country and free people is a cheap attempt by the Egyptian regime to imply to the public that it can still direct matters in Sudan in the same way it did in the days of the severed tail Numayri, who made Sudan an appendage of the Egyptian regime, even capitulating and adhering to anti-Arab and anti-African treaties.

By reporting the statements of agent Habre's representative in the Egyptian media, the Egyptian regime has greatly insulted Sudan, the Sudanese Government, and the Sudanese people, who believe now, after the April revolution that toppled Numayri, that Sudan's identity and Arabism will prevent it from sinking into any of the quagmires of treachery and that its fate and security rest with the Arab nation.

The attempt to throw the Revolutionary Committees Movement's name into the so-called Darfur events is merely an overt provocation against the Revolutionary Committees Movement in both Chad and Sudan. It is also a wicked attempt to cast doubt on the Revolutionary Committees Movement out of fear of its expansion and effectiveness, which constitute a threat to reactionary and hireling regimes everywhere.

What has occurred in the Darfur region, in eastern Sudan, and in the border region between Sudan and Chad, is no more than an act carried out by the Egyptian secret services in coordination with the regime of agentry in Ndjamena. The Revolutionary Committees Movement is a humanitarian movement working for mankind's sake, happiness, and freedom; it cannot, therefore, slip into this perilous ground which fundamentally contradicts its conduct.

MAURITANIA

Government Reviews 'Danger' on Northern Border

LD162340 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state. The Council endorsed several draft decrees. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the CMSN and head of state also informed the Council of the dangerous situation prevailing on the country's northern borders, from Inal to the Ocean. This situation is imposed upon us today, although the national leadership tried to avoid it through serious and expert diplomatic means. However, the construction of the Moroccan wall and the concentration of foreign troops 400 meters from our border town of Inal, and less than 2 km from our railroad provoke, or could provoke at any moment, incidents that are sometimes difficult to control.

In the face of this regrettable situation our country could not remain indifferent. Therefore, measures were taken in order to guarantee the protection of Nquadhibou. During this crisis, we have kept some of the major Western and Asian states among our friends abreast of developments. We also informed some heads of friendly states in the Maghreb, the Middle East and in Subsaharan Africa. This was done either through special envoys or directly over the telephone.

The Council considers that the permanent concentration of foreign troops so near our vital centres is dangerous and unacceptable. Therefore, it calls on everyone to join ranks and to be aware of the danger threatening our country.

Envoys Dispatched

AB161625 Dakar PANA in French 1240 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 16 Apr (PANA) — Mauritanian Head of State Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya has sent emissaries to his counterparts — Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Congolese head of state and OAU chairman; Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid; and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia — as well as to other Arab and African leaders, it was learned from a well-informed source here yesterday.

According to the source, the mission of the Mauritanian emissaries is related to the "extension of the Moroccan wall" toward Mauritania's northern border, which worries the population in the affected regions.

Already, after contacts between Mauritanian and Moroccan authorities on the dangers which could result from the construction of a wall along Mauritania's border, the Mauritanian foreign minister broke his silence with a statement handed to the national press on Tuesday [14 April]. The statement said in substance that in the face of these developments in the Western Sahara, "Mauritania will give priority to the defense of its territory."

Commenting on the situation, the *Mauritanian Press Agency* (AMP) writes that the "construction of the wall close to the locality of Inal (1.2 km from the Mauritanian railway) is likely to harm the Mauritanian people."

"More than the Western Sahara conflict, this situation threatens Mauritania's sovereignty and economy, and constitutes a constant danger for its people," AMP adds.

The agency also recalls that Nouakchott, which withdrew from Western Sahara in the wake of the 10 July 1978 coup, "has repeatedly reaffirmed its neutrality in this conflict between the Moroccan and Saharan brothers."

MOROCCO

Hassan Sends Letter to Mauritania's Taya

LD152240 Rabat MAP in English 1309 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Rabat, Apr 15 (MAP) — King Hassan II has recently addressed President of Mauritania Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya a letter wherein the sovereign reaffirms Morocco's keen concern for the inviolability of Mauritanian borders and respect for its sovereignty.

The letter was handed over to Mauritanian Minister of the Interior Djibril Ould Abdellahi during the audience the sovereign granted him during his last visit to Morocco on April 7.

Following is the full text of the royal letter:

"Mr President and Dear Brother,

"Taking advantage of the visit of Mr Djibril, Mauritanian minister of interior, we wish to express to you, once more, our feelings of friendship and brotherhood, reaffirming our keen concern for the inviolability of the frontiers of your sister country and the respect for its sovereignty.

"The sorrowful events taking place in the south of our Sahara make us only the more convinced that they are passing, and that our mutual efforts must primarily be geared towards the preparation of the forthcoming phase which, with the grace of God, and thanks to our joint initiatives, will bring about, in the very near future, an era of permanent brotherhood and a fruitful and constructive cooperation.

"Please accept, Mr President and Dear Brother, the expression of our highest esteem and consideration. May you enjoy good health and may the brotherly people of Mauritania live in happiness and prosperity."

Commander Reports Progress on Coastal Defenses

LD172309 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] We have just received an announcement from the Supreme General Command of the Royal Armed Forces. His Majesty King Hassan II, the supreme commander of the Royal Armed Forces and Chief of General Staff, has received the following message from General Abdelaziz Benani, commander of the southern region:

Your Majesty, may God grant you victory and support. I have the honor of respectfully informing you of the following:

The groups entrusted with building the new defensive line arrived in (Guerguerat) on the Atlantic Coast on 16 April 1987 at 1030 in implementation of the gracious directives by his majesty, the supreme commander and chief of the Royal Armed Forces General Staff. These are the directives in which you explained to your servant, the general commander of the southern region, your orders for executing the plan for protecting and fortifying the region. The operations to extend the defensive field began on 16 February 1987, and the building of this new defensive line will enable us to control West Tiris and completely push back the enemy, which was moving up the coastline. These operations were carried out in implementation of Royal Decree No 520, issued by the Supreme Command on 6 December 1986, and in [words indistinct] issue on the basis of the original operations order No 17, extending on 550 km.

The new defensive line will link (Oum Driga) and the Atlantic Ocean via (Tendegum El Beida), (El Guelia), (Adam Maslout), and (Gleb Dlim). It will extend along the Mauritanian borders for a distance of 220 kms and be linked to (Guerguer) coast, situated 60 kms north of (El Guera).

Since the beginning of construction work on the new line, the enemy has tried everything to impede the building of these fortifications or delay their completion. When their impotence became clear as their attempts failed and they could not hold against the intervening forces, the mercenaries launched important attacks against secondary positions, such as (Farsia), Haouz, and Smara, which are near the centers of their concentration and staging areas. The mercenaries' goals through these attempts and attacks against these positions was to stop the completion of the new line, or to at least reduce its importance and its effect on the mercenaries' morale. In effect, the completion of the new line has fortified and secured several regions: First, a new region, of approximately 65,000 square km, including the positions of (Auserd), (Tichla), and (Bir Ganduz); second, the whole Atlantic coast.

Your Majesty, the general, commander of the southern region, all the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers, as well as all the Armed Forces and services working in the south take this happy occasion to express to his majesty, the supreme commander, and chief of the General Staff of the Royal Armed Forces, their allegiance and loyalty as well their attachment to his noble person and his gracious throne. We also express congratulations and reiterate strong determination to continue defending the sanctities of the Kingdom and its territorial integrity.

[Signed] Abdelaziz Bennani.

Cameroon's Biya, Delegation Arrive for Visit

LD152231 Rabat MAP in English 1201 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Marrakech, April 15 (MAP) — President Paul Biya of Cameroon arrived here Tuesday afternoon on a state visit to Morocco at the invitation of King Hassan II.

The head of state of Cameroon who was welcomed upon arrival by the Moroccan sovereign is accompanied by a large delegation including Minister of Foreign Affairs Philippe Mataga, Minister of Information and Culture Ibrahim Mbombo Njoya, Minster of Scientific Research and Higher Education Aboulaye Babale, Minister of Trade and Industry Edouard Nomo Ongolo and Minister of Energy and Mining Michael Kima Tabong.

Adviser to the President Claude Tchepannou is also accompanying the delegation.

Confers With Hassan

LD162315 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The visit of the president of Cameroon has entered its 2d day. His Majesty, may God grant him victory, received President Paul Biya and had tete-a-tete talks with him.

His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received this afternoon at the throne room in the Royal Palace of Marrakech, Paul Biya, the president of the Republic of Cameroon, who is on an official visit to our country. [passage omitted] His Majesty King Hassan II had political talks with his guest. Last night, his majesty held a private dinner banquet at the Royal Palace in honor of the Cameroonian president.

Joint Communique Issued

LD180135 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Following the official visit by Paul Biya, president of the Republic of Cameroon, to Morocco on 14 and 15 April, a Moroccan-Cameroonian joint communique was issued, the text of which follows:

In the framework of the friendship and the deep fraternity that brings together the Moroccan Kingdom and the Republic of Cameroon, and by an invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II, His Excellency President Paul Biya of the Republic of Cameroon paid an official visit to Morocco on 14 and 15 April 1987. This visit comes in response to the sincere wish of the leaders of the two countries to develop and enhance cooperation as well as in the context of the solidarity existing between Morocco and the Republic of Cameroon.

After the heads of the two states expressed their satisfaction regarding the excellent and exemplary relations existing between the two countries, they agreed on the necessity to further strengthen these relations. Toward this goal, His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Paul Biya decided to create a large Moroccan-Cameroonian mixed committee with the aim of giving a great impetus to bilateral cooperation and [word indistinct] in response to the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples. On directives from the heads of the two states, it was decided that this committee would meet in turn in Rabat and in Yaounde once a year.

In addition, on the basis of the directives of the heads of the two states, a meeting of the delegations of the two countries was held at ministerial level on 12 April 1987 in Marrakesh in order to lay down the structures that will develop cooperation in the future. This undertaking was agreed on between the Moroccan Kingdom and the Republic of Cameroon.

This meeting was attended on the Moroccan side by Abdelatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Mohamed Hilali, minister of National Education; Mohamed Fettah, minister of energy and mines; and by Abdallah Lazmani, minister of commerce and industry. On the Cameroonian side it was attended by Philippe Mataga, minister of foreign affairs; Abdoulaye Babale, minister of higher education and scientific research; Nomo Ongolo Edouard, minister of commerce and industry; and by Michael Kima Tabong, minister of mines and power.

During the official visit of the president of the Republic of Cameroon, His Majesty King Hassan II and his great guest carried out a comprehensive analysis of the international arena, particularly the situation in Africa and the Arab world. The heads of the two states noted with great satisfaction that their viewpoints were identical with regard to the issues that were discussed. They praised the fraternal atmosphere and the deep understanding that prevailed during their talks. The Cameroonian president expressed his deep satisfaction with the quality of the discussions that he held with His Majesty King Hassan II, which were characterized by comprehensiveness and depth. This came in a cable he sent to his majesty after he left Morocco this morning.

Concludes Visit; Departs

LD172329 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Cameroonian President Paul Biya, who had arrived in our country for an official visit at the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, left for home this morning. He was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Amir Sidi Mohamed. A detachment of the Royal Guard saluted the president. [passage omitted]

SUDAN

Officials Deny 'Rumors' of Coup Attempt

Al-Mahdi Cited

JN182001 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Apr 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Khartoum — In an exclusive statement to *Al-Ittihad*,Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has categorically denied reports about a coup attempt in Sudan planned by the military. He said such reports are rumors and nonsense aimed at undermining the legitimate democratic regime and that they are baseless. He said all government organs are fully alert.

Yesterday the newspaper *Al-Usbu'* said that Armed Forces elements with sectarian and idelogical leanings are planning to stage a coup on 26 April and that the Army has been placed on a state of maximum alert following the unveiling of the attempt.

The newspaper *Al-Maydan*, organ of the Sudanese Communist Party, said that recent rumors had it that the Southern Sudanese Political Association led by Father Philip Ghabbush, the Communist Party, pro-Libyan revolutionary committees, and the Ba'th Party are preparing a coup and a number of military men have been arrested.

Citing Major General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, minister of state for defense affairs, *Al-Maydan* said Fadlallah denied such attempts but said he is aware of the rumors. Nasir denied any arrests and described these rumors as illogical because they concern a group of very heterogeneous ideologies.

The newspaper Al-Rayah said that certain sectarian groups and militant parties are planning to disturb public order and spread anarchy to undermine the democratic regime by inducing unrest among their supporters in the Armed Forces. The paper said security forces contained this attempt.

Secretariat Member Comments

EA171604 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1005 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Apr (SUNA) — Dr 'Umar al-Nur al-Da'im, secretary of the Ummah Party Secretariat and minister of agriculture, has denied reports of an attempted military coup, describing them as baseless rumors. In a statement published in today's *Al-Usbu'*, he said that the rumors were spread by desperate people seeking to create unrest and chaos in the country.

Replying to a question from *Al-Usbu'* about a possible military coup, he said that certain malicious elements might attempt one. However, the democratic atmosphere and the people's belief in freedom and dignity [words indistinct].

Yesterday's *Al-Usbu'* published a report that an attempted coup had been foiled by military intelligence and the people's Armed Forces Command. The coup was to have been staged on 16 April.

SPLA Radio Denies Rebel Role

EA190359 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army English 1300 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on introductory remarks] The plans of Al-Sadiq are clear to us in the SPLA-SPLM, that Al-Sadiq wants to turn the Sudanese Army into his own by the year 1990. How to fulfill this makes him daydream of finding out ways and means to get rid of all the officers and soldiers who are not loyal to his government. One way is by creating lies about people allegedly plotting to overthrow his government so that he could be able to make a mass arrest and finally dismiss and kill most of them and then he will be able to recruit soldiers and officers of his own. Those who may miss arrest can be sent to the war zone so that they are killed there. The politicians who have no connection with the guns will be imprisoned.

It is just a repetition of what Marshal Numayri was doing. Like Numayri, Al-Sadiq is knocking the heads of the Sudanese political parties, one against the other, arming tribes against tribes, arresting and (?deporting) those who cannot compromise with his regime. Like Numayri, Al-Sadiq wants to build an Islamic empire led by Al-Sadiq's family, but let us ask Al-Sadiq a simple question: Where is Numayri now?

The fabrication of lies that SPLA has a hand in that alleged coup with foreigners coming to assist the coup plotters is not a surprise nor new to the SPLA-SPLM and the Sudanese masses. Numayri was [word indistinct] so was Siwar al-Dhahab and now it is Al-Sadiq's turn. SPLA-SPLM is a popular mass movement that has nothing to do with coup attempts that are being planned and directed by few individuals and which have nothing to do with the majority of the people. That is why the popular struggle (?which) is staged by workers, students and professionals has many things in common. We want peace through a democratic consensus, through dialogue to solve our fundamental problems.

But Al-Sadiq just tries to blackmail the SPLA so as to justify the lies he uses to preach to the outside world that SPLA-SPLM is a terrorist movement which just fights for destruction and that it is being backed by foreign powers, so that countries that take his word can give material or any other help he could get. Like the mentioning of some embassies alleged to be destroyed by the coup plotters is actually a clear indication of those countries to intervene on the grounds that they are coming to protect their people in the Sudan.

But in reality this is a reflection of Al-Sadiq's fear of going out from that hot chair in Khartoum. But there is nothing that will stop him from going, because the more he lives on telling lies and leaving the truth, the more the Sudanese public, including the Sudanese Army, will become determined to kick him out. Anything built through lies, deception, oppression and exploitation will not last for those deceived and oppressed are the majority. Once they discover the truth, the [word indistinct] will defeat them whatsoever it may be, till they free themselves and the country at large from all [words indistinct] that has been the cornerstone of their sufferings (?picked) down by those who cheated.

Sudanese National Party Leader To Stand Trial

JN171134 Khartoum SUNA in English
1015 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum Apr.17 (SUNA) — Chairman of the Sudanese National Party Father Philip 'Abbas Ghabbush and two others will face a trial under illegal wealth, forgery and deception.

Ghabbush, merchant Nasir 'Ala al-Din 'Abd al-Qadir and officer Hamzah Hadian were accused of misappropriation of a quota of ready made clothes.

Ghabbush who is MP in the parliament and leader of his party is still in custody for failing to pay a bail of two million Sudanese pounds.

But the latter two were set free.

Madibu Receives Libyan, Chadian Diplomats

JN151453 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1439 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Dr Adam Madibu, acting foreign minister, separately received here this morning the charge d'affaires of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau [Embassy] and the Chadian charge d'affaires in Khartoum.

The acting foreign minister asked them to convey two verbal messages from the Sudanese Government to the Libyan Arab and Chadian Governments respectively on Sudan's initiative to resolve the Libyan-Chadian conflict.

Continued Libyan Military Presence Disputed

Chadian Envoy Cites Airport

JN171012 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Apr 87 p 18

[Text] Khartoum — 'Abbas Kuti [name as published], Chadian charge d'affaires in Khartoum, has stated that Libya is building a military airport in the Al-Wakha'im area of the Darfur region and sending military reinforcements to its forces inside Sudan.

He added that Libya is recruiting Sudanese and Chadian citizens to create disturbances among the tribes in Darfur with the purpose of exacerbating relations between Sudan and Chad by attributing these disturbances to Chadian citizens.

Army Says Libyans Withdrawn

JN171123 Khartoum SUNA in English
1010 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, April 17 (SUNA) — The Libyan troops which were being stationed in Darfur region, Western Sudan have withdrawn to the Libyan territories, a statement issued yesterday by the general command of the Sudanese people's Armed Forces said.

The statement confirmed that an army unit dispatched to secure the withdrawal of the Libyan troops had combed the area on April 8 and found no sign of Libyan troops presence.

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced last month that about 700 to 1000 Libyan troops were stationed in Darfur, and called on the Libyan Government to withdraw them.

Official Reports Clear Border

JN190822 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0729 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Apr (WAKH) — A ranking Sudanese military official has affirmed that there are no foreign forces on the Sudanese border with Chad. He also affirmed that the Sudanese border guards are carrying out their tasks on the border strip efficiently.

In a statement published by *Al-Ittihad* today, the military official denied claims that the Libyan military command in Al-Kufrah has sent military reinforcements to the Libyan forces in Western Sudan. He affirmed that the Libyan forces have completely left Sudan.

The Sudanese military official said the Armed Forces and security organs in his country completely control the situation in western Sudan. He revealed that the Sudanese Army's campaigns resulted in finding 100 Libyan soldiers who lost their way in the Al-'Atron desert during the Libyan forces' journey back to Libya from western Sudan, and that these soldiers were handed over to the Libyan Army command by the Sudanese Army.

Madibu Receives Letter on Ties With Ethiopia

JN121548 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1416 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Apr (SUNA) — Sudan's minister of energy and mining and acting foreign minister, Dr Adam Madibu, has received a letter from Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid concerning the recent visit to Egypt by Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative

Council of Socialist Ethiopia, regarding Cairo's efforts to bridge Sudanese-Ethiopian differences. The letter was delivered by the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum when he called on Dr Madibu at the Foreign Ministry yesterday Saturday.

Meanwhile the Ethiopian charge d'affaires in Khartoum yesterday called on Dr Madibu, who handed him the text of the good neighborliness initiative which figured in Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's speech marking the second anniversary of the uprising.

MENA quotes Egypt's information minister as saying Ethiopian-Sudanese relations topped the list of the topics which came up in last Friday's meeting in Cairo between Presidents Mubarak and Mengistu. The Ethiopian leader stressed to President Mubarak his concern for stable and friendly relations with Sudan, the Egyptian minister was reported as saying.

Concluding a 4-day visit to Egypt the Ethiopian leader held a press conference today.

SPLA Radio: Spokesman on Cease-fire Conditions

EA102337 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army English
1300 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] In a statement to Radio SPLA today, the official SPLM-SPLA spokesman reiterated the stand of the movement on the peace process. According to the spokesman, the measures envisaged by the political forces during the dialogue at Koka Dam, as essential to the convening of a national constitutional conference, should be adhered to. The spokesman pointed out that the lack of a cease-fire which the Al-Sadiq government was calling for did not in any way hinder it from unveiling its new peace plan. The linkage between Khartoum's prospective new peace plan and a 2-week cease-fire the SPLM-SPLA is being required to observe is hard to understand, the spokesman added.

He went on to say that the SPLM-SPLA had made it crystal clear during the meeting of the joint liaison committee that emerged from the Koka Dam talks that for political reasons any cease-fire should be coupled with a simultaneously lifting of the state of emergency. This, the spokesman concluded, meant that the concurrent lifting of the state of emergency and cessation of hostilities should immediately proceed the national constitutional conference as the last step towards the convening of such a conference.

Sudanese Forces Sent To End Eritrean Fighting

JN141100 Khartoum SUNA in English
1030 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, April 14 (SUNA) — Heavy clashes broke out Sunday at Bumma village, 28 km south east of the Sudanese eastern town of Kassala, inside the liberated Eritrean soil between the troops of Eritrea Liberation Front (ELF) led by 'Abdallah Idris and the Popular Liberation Forces led by Abdulgadir Gaylani, The daily *Al-Ayyam* today reported. The clashes, where various kinds of weaponry were used, have lasted for four hours, the paper added. It further said that a unit from the Sudanese Armed Forces has been dispached to the area to prevent the fighters of the warring Eritrean factions from entering the country's eastern region.

Four fighters, two of them injured, were arrested with all their weapons while trying to penetrate into the eastern region, the paper said.

SPLA Radio Reports 'Massacre' of Dinkas

EA141825 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 14 Apr 87

[13 April press statement by Lieutenant Colonel Martin Manyiel, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command]

[Excerpt] A few weeks ago, an appalling human tragedy of gigantic proportions, which Khartoum deliberately downplayed, struck a section of the Sudanese community at Ad Du'ayn in Darfur. In the aftermath of the big battle at Safa during which SPLA troops routed the Khartoum-sponsored militia forces known as the Murahilin, the authorities organized and helped carry out one of the most bloody reprisals ever to be recorded since the 1960's against innocent and defenseless Dinkas who had been residing in Ad Du'ayn.

Although an embarrassed Khartoum government reluctantly admitted that only a hundred people had died, accounts of the massacre given by the few who had miraculously survived the slaughter suggest the death toll was actually higher than 1,000.

Acting upon the instigation of the authorities, the Baggarah Arabs of Ad Du'ayn doused their victims, most of them women and children, with kerosene before setting them alight.

Evidence that this genocidal act was perpetrated against those innocent and law-abiding citizens with the official sanction of Khartoum is overwhelming. If the security authorities at Ad Du'ayn had merely neglected their duties to accord protection to the victims, the crime would have been less heinous.

But when they realized that the Baggarah Arabs, from which the Khartoum militia are mostly drawn, had become mad with rage at the sight of their dead and injured relatives who had been killed and wounded at Safa, they hurriedly assembled the Dinka population in one place ostensibly for the purpose of protecting them. The actual motive behind the move was to render the task of their executioners easy by preparing the victims for the slaughter. What occured at Ad Du'ayn is sadly reminiscent both of the past and the wicked and vindictive attitude of the successive minority clique regimes of Khartoum. [passage omitted]

TUNISIA

MDS Leader Mestiri Reportedly Arrested

BK180324 Hong Kong AFP in English
0255 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, April 18 (AFP) — Ahmed Mestiri, secretary-general of one of Tunisia's biggest authorised opposition parties, the Social Democrat Movement (MDS), was arrested at his home here Friday and taken to the central police station, the party said.

There was no official confirmation of the report.

The MDS is one of five parties that recently signed an appeal calling for the respect of civil liberties, after the authorities launched a crackdown in March on Moslem fundamentalists.

The move was followed on March 26 by a break in diplomatic ties with Iran, with the government accusing the Iranian Embassy here of organising a plot to overthrow the government of 83-year-old President Habib Bourguiba.

Another signatory, Nejib Chebbi, secretary-general of the Progressive Socialist Rally, which is not recognised by the authorities, has also been interviewed by police, who had him sign a statement acknowledging his signature of the document, sources close to the party said.

The other signatory parties are the Communist Party of Tunisia, and the radical Popular Unity Movement and the Popular Unity Party.

Political unrest has grown in Tunisia in recent years, amid uncertainty about President Bourguiba's health and his succession, while relations with Tunisia's eastern neighbour, Libya, remain tense after a reported armed incursion in 1980 by Libyan-backed insurgents.

Last July, President Bourguiba dismissed his prime minister Mohamed Mzali, who later fled the country. In November, Mr. Bourguiba called elections that were boycotted by all of the opposition groups, leaving his Destour Socialist Party unchallenged in parliament.

Sfar Receives PRC Minister Qin Zhongda

LD132324 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rachid Sfar discussed this morning with Qin Zhongda, the PRC minister of chemical industry, the excellent relations between the two countries and the manifold bilateral cooperation embodied in the Tunisian-PRC-Kuwaiti plan for the creation of a Chinese-Arab phosphate fertilizer company. The PRC minister pointed out that his government shares Tunisia's eagerness, expressed by Rachid Sfar, for the earliest completion of this great project and for securing all factors necessary for its success as a model of serious and fruitful cooperation between the countries of the south.

Mr Qin Zhongda added that the prime minister has given his directives on this project and on finding new possibilities for cooperation that would deepen the present cooperation in the service of the two people. [passage omitted]

Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Arrives in Tunis

Arrival Statement

JN141227 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, 14 Apr (INA) — Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, arrived here today on a visit to Tunis that will last several days.

In a statement to journalists upon his arrival, Hammadi expressed Iraq's appreciation for Tunisia's stands on Arab issues and its support for Iraq's right to defend its independence and sovereignty. He stressed Iraq's support for Tunisia in protecting its independence and confronting foreign interference, particularly by the Iranian regime, which is carrying out an aggression against Iraq.

The Iraqi National Assembly speaker said that Tunisia's stand in severing relations with Iran is a constructive example for all the Arab states to safeguard their independence and sovereignty. Hammadi added that during the visit he will discuss with his Tunisian counterpart Mahmoud Messadi joint cooperation and exchange views on several Arab and international issues.

Parliamentary Talks Begin

JN152037 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1900 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Official talks between a National Assembly delegation and the Tunisian National Assembly began today. The Iraqi side to the talks was headed by Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, while the Tunisian side was headed by National Assembly President Mahmoud Messadi.

During the first session, the two sides dealt with the cooperation between the two assemblies in all fields as well as the possibility of bolstering Arab parliamentary action within the framework of the Arab Parliamentary Union.

In a speech at the beginning of the session, the Tunisian National Assembly president expressed great appreciation and admiration for the Iraqi forces' victories over the aggressor Iranian forces in defense of the independence and sovereignty of the entire Arab soil from the Khomeyniite ambitions, thus scoring the most splendid epics of heroism and sacrifice. He praised Iraq's great progress in all fields despite the 78-month-old war on which the Iranian regime insists.

Mahmoud Messadi affirmed that Iraqi-Tunisian relations are witnessing great progress toward solidarity and unified Arab action due to the identical viewpoints on the fateful Arab issues, headed by the Palestine question, as well as the existing bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

On the events recently witnessed by Tunisia which resulted in the severance of diplomatic relations with Iran, the Tunisian National Assembly speaker explained that the Iranian regime aims to export its Khomeyniite theory to sow divisions among Muslims and use sedition to achieve its expansionist objectives on the entire Arab and Islamic soil. He added that the Khomeyni regime in Iran is not only content with aggression, but exceeded this in an attempt to distort Islam and its humanitarian substance and went so far as to deny the message of the greatest prophet, Muhammad. This gives us the responsibility as Arabs and Muslims to confront these poisoned ideas strongly, bravely, and without hesitation.

In a reply speech, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Asembly speaker, reiterated Iraq's support for Tunisia in its firm confrontation of the Iranian attempts to intervene in its internal affairs.

Meets With Sfar

LD162038 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Rachid Sfar conferred at the Government Palace in Casbah at midday today with Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, who stated that he had a fruitful talk with the prime minister on the two countries' relations and asserted that he emphasized Iraq's full support for Tunisia in defending its sovereignty and repelling any foreign interference in its internal affairs. Dr Sa'dun Hammadi asserted that the two sides' views are identical on the need for Arab countries to stand united in stopping any foreign interference in their affairs.

The meeting was attended by Mahmoud Messadi.

Meets With Bourguiba

LD172014 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba had a meeting with Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, who conveyed to his excellency President Habib Bourguiba a message of greetings and thanks from President Saddam Husayn. The message stated Iraq's support for Tunisia in its efforts to protect its independence and prevent interference in its internal affairs. The supreme combatant told the Iraqi president's envoy to convey to President Saddam Husayn Tunisia's support for Iraq and its admiration of its steadfastness.

The Iraqi envoy said that the meeting was held in utmost sincerity and warmth, which indicated the extent of friendly cooperation and fraternal relations between the two countries. Present at this meeting, in addition to Rachid Sfar, Mansour Shkiri, and Zine Labedine Ben Ali, were Mahmoud Messadi, speaker of the House of Deputies, and Taha Yasin al-'Ali, the Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia.

Joint Statement Issued

LD170423 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] A Tunisian-Iraqi joint statement has been issued on the visit of Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and his delegation to Tunisia on 14-17 April. It says that during the visit, Dr Hammadi met with the great struggler, President Habib Bourguiba, and held a series of talks with Prime Minister Rachid Sfar, Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk, and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

It adds: On this occasion, a working session was held at the House of Representatives headquarters in (Badou) on Wednesday 15 April during which the two sides expressed satisfaction with such meetings and mutual determination to strengthen fruitful cooperation in the interests of both countries. The Iraqi delegation voiced support for the brave patriotic decision made by President Bourguiba to break off diplomatic relations with the Iranian regime because of its interference in Tunisian domestic affairs, and because of its practices aimed at undermining the country's public security and higher interests.

The Tunisian side expressed solidarity with Iraq's legitimate defense of its sovereignty and independence and its firm resistance of the Iranian wanton attacks. It commended President Saddam Husayn's peaceful attitude in pursuit of a just, comprehensive, and unconditional settlement of the armed conflict. It condemned the Iranian authorities' insistence on continuing the war and their rejection of regional and international peace efforts.

The two sides discussed the Palestinian people's struggle for the restoration of their usurped land and legitimate right to self-determination.

Departs; Makes Statement

LD172335 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, left Tunis today after a visit to Tunisia leading an Iraqi parliamentary delegation. Sa'dun Hammadi stated that he conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greeting to President Habib Bourguiba who entrusted him with his greetings and respect for the steadfast Iraqi people, and especially for President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Hammadi added: We expressed Iraq's full support for the position adopted by Tunisia vis-a-vis the Iranian regime in defense of its independence and to prevent any interference in its internal affairs.

YAR Oil Minister Arrives; Makes Statement

LD180230 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Ahmad Muhani, YAR Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister, arrived in Tunis last night for an official 5-day visit to the Tunisian Republic at the invitation of Salah Ben Mbarka, Tunisian Energy and Mines Minister.

Muhani made a statement in which he said that the aim of his visit is to discuss aspects of bilateral cooperation in the field of oil and other resources and to become acquainted with the Tunisian experiment and steps made in this connection under the leadership of the great struggler, President Habib Bourguiba.

The Yemeni minister added that he will hold talks with his Tunisian counterpart to learn about and benefit from the Tunisian experience in extracting and exploiting natural wealth in various domains, particularly agriculture and industry.

In conclusion, he lauded the existing strong fraternal relations between the two countries which have long been linked by ties of love, fraternity, and blood.

Bourguiba Receives Mauritanian President's Envoy

LD172116 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba received Mohamed Lemine Ould Ndiayane, envoy of the Mauritanian president to the supreme combatant. The Mauritanian envoy stated that he had the honor of meeting with the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, and conveyed a message to him from his brother Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya. The message dealt with the deep and distinguished relations between the two presidents and the fruitful cooperation between both countries. The Mauritanian envoy briefed the president on issues concerning the Arab Maghreb. Also in attendance at the meeting were: Rachid Sfar, Mansour Skhiri, Hedi Mabrouk, and (Zine el Abidine Ben Ali); and Mohamed Lamine Ould Yahia, Mauritanian ambassador in Tunis.

WESTERN SAHARA

Complaint on Moroccan Wall Lodged With UN

LD192133 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] SADR President Mohamed Abdelaziz has sent messages to Perez de Cuellar and Denis Sassou-Nguesso complaining against the occan royalist regime's persistence in its policy of military escalation in the occupied Saharan territory.

A statement issued by the SADR Information Ministry says that Mohamed Abdelaziz, Polisario Secretary General and SADR President, has drawn the attention of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and Sassou-Nguesso, the Congolese President and current OAU Chairman, to the deteriorating situation in northwest Africa, particularly after the construction of the sixth Moroccan wall, which stretches 200 km along the Saharan-Mauritanian borders. That wall, Mohamed Abdelaziz said, constitutes yet another step in the Moroccan policy of military escalation and threatens a general crisis in the region. It places a new obstacle in the way of the UN and OAU efforts to promote peace in the region and reestablish peace in Western Sahara in accordance with UN Articles 16 and 41 and OAU Article 104.

CAMEROON

Biya Returns From Morocco; Communique Cited

AB171956 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] The head of state, His Excellency Paul Biya, is back in the nation's capital after a 4-day official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco.

President and Mrs Biya arrived at the Yaounde airport late this afternoon from the Moroccan town of Marrakech where he and his host, King Hassan II, signed a final communique marking the end of the Cameroon leader's visit.

Our envoy in the presidential entourage, Shasha Ndimbie, summarizes the contents of the communique:

[Begin recording] According to the communique, Cameroon and Morocco have pledged to reinforce bilateral relations beginning with the creation of an extensive joint commission aimed at giving a new impetus to Cameroon-Morocco cooperation.

The final communique goes on to say that President Paul Biya and King Hassan II had ordered, after the meeting, that the joint commission meet annually, alternately in Rabat and Yaounde.

By another order yesterday, the two delegations met at the ministerial level to draw up a program necessary for developing future cooperation ties between the two countries.

Present at the meeting were the Moroccan ministers of foreign affairs, national education, mines and energy, and trade and industry.

Representing Cameroon were the ministers of foreign affairs, the minister of higher education and scientific research, the minister of trade and industry, and the minister of mines and energy.

According to the communique, both leaders took advantage of the visit to concert on international problems with a focus on the current situation in Africa and the Arab world, agreeing for the most part in their views.

In the meantime, besides the final communique this morning, a cooperation agreement was also signed between the Cameroonian minister of trade and industry, Mr Nomo Ongolo Edouard, and his Moroccan counterpart, Mr Abdellah Azmani.

The agreement is aimed at improving on and developing commercial and economic exchange between Cameroon and Morocco on the basis of a more equitable and reciprocal trade dialogue.

Generally speaking, President Paul Biya's visit to Morocco was definitely a huge success. But all said and done, in the economic and technical exchange view the key word during the visit was diplomacy. [end recording]

CHAD

Ndjamena Threatens To Strike Libyans in Sudan

AB171247 Paris AFP in French 1153 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Apr (AFP) — Chadian Government forces will attack Libyan troops stationed in Sudan if they do not leave that country, according to Abbas Koute Yacoub, Chad's charge d'affaires in Khartoum. Abbas Koute Yacoub, who was quoted by the daily newspaper *Al-Usbu'*, made this comment on Thursday [16 April].

Libyan troops are still in Sudan and are preparing to cross the Chadian border, the charge d'affaires added, explaining that his country might be forced to request a new reconnaissance mission from the French Air Force in the area.

'Ali Hassan Taj al-Din, a member of the Sudanese Supreme Council, had said all Libyan troops have withdrawn from Sudan, Mr Yacoub continued, which led Ndjamena to call for a halt to the French reconnaissance flights. However, according to the diplomat, Libyan soldiers crossed the border on 22 March.

Sudanese officials have declared on several occasions that the Libyan troops stationed in western Sudan have left for Libya.

Military Officer States Wish To Reconquer Aozou

LD181929 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Chad has reiterated its wish to reconquer the north of its territory and has just threatened to attack the Libyan troops who are still stationed in Sudan. The Chadian forces are indeed determined to pursue the Libyans as far as Aozou. Listen to the commander of the Faya zone, (Gaili Emshi), speaking to Daniel Desesquelles. This is the first time a senior Chadian military officer has clearly explained the role of the FANT [Chadian National Armed Forces]. He talks about the FANT's role as a high compressor:

[Begin (Emshi) recording] The FANT's high compressor role is a well-known concept. In our view, that is our job; we must carry out our task. Our goal is to guarantee territorial integrity, so our objective has not yet been attained. At the moment we are only at the beginning. In our view we must wind up in Aozou, as only that will satisfy us. After all, Chad's borders are in Aozou, so the pursuit will continue until we have completely recovered our country. [end recording]

[Announcer] As I told you, Ndjamena is also threatening to attack the Libyan troops stationed in Sudan if they do not leave that country. This statement comes from the Chadian charge d'affaires in Khartoum. However, Sudanese officials have repeated on several occasions that the Libyan troops stationed in western Sudan have returned to Libya. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Back From CAR, Kenya, Ethiopia

AB181952 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 45 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] The head of state granted an audience late this afternoon at the presidential palace to Gouara Lassou, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who has just returned from a mission to Bangui, where he stayed from 26 March to 4 April at the invitation of his Central African counterpart.

From Bangui, the Chadian foreign minister went on to Nairobi, Kenya, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to deliver a message from President Hissein Habre to his counterparts Daniel arap Moi and Mengistu Haile Mariam.

France Grants Fr15 Million Budgetary Aid

AB172228 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] A budgetary aid agreement worth Fr15 million, about 750 million CFA francs, designed to help the Chadian Government's economic and financial recovery program has just been signed in Paris by the French minister of cooperation and our ambassador to France, Ahmad Allam-mi.

According to a French Cooperation Ministry communique, this agreement is the second installment of an earlier grant of 75 million CFA francs disbursed in March 1987.

The communique also pointed out the positive results obtained by our government in its economic recovery program.

Bardai Radio Notes GUNT Minister's African Tour

AB182125 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1847 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] The diplomatic shuttle on the Chadian issue is still going on. After Brazzaville, External Relations Minister Facho Balam went to Libreville. The external relations minister's visit to Gabon is in implementation of the directives given by the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] leadership at the recent meeting of its ambassadors and representatives. According to these directives, the government should even strive to convince the allies of the Ndjamena regime of [words indistinct] for its work for peace in Chad.

Observers note that Dr Balam's trip to Gabon coincides with that of Goukouni Oueddei's delegation. Mr Goukouni, who has been to Abidjan, was to go to Cotonou, Benin.

Bardai Notes Anniversary of U.S. Raid on Libya

AB182135 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1850 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Excerpts] A U.S. senator has visited Ndjamena. Robert Kasten, Jr has just made a very short trip to Chad lasting only a few hours. His stay included talks with Hissein Habre. [passage omitted] It should be noted that this U.S. envoy's visit to Africa took place as Libya celebrated the anniversary of the U.S. air raid on Tripoli and Banghazi.

This occasion was marked by many activities, particularly in the Libyan capital, including an international conference of solidarity with the Libyan people.

CONGO

Nicaragua's D'Escoto on Vatican, U.S. Relations

AB171218 Dakar PANA in French 1011 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Brazzaville, 17 Apr (ACI/PANA)— Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Sunday [12 April] in Pointe-Noire, 515 km south of Brazzaville, condemned the Vatican's interference in his country's internal affairs and accused the Episcopal Conference of supporting "imperialist aggressors."

During discussions with the cadres of Pointe-Noire, Mr D'Escoto added that "the pope is abusing his authority" by appealing to the Nicaraguan people to abandon their fight for liberation.

"The world is suffering from American imperialism and the pope does not understand Christ's message," he continued, stressing that to him, "a Christian is a revolutionary [words indistinct].

"I will be a good Christian by serving my country," he added, also denouncing the pressure applied on him by his holiness in forcing him to abandon his political activities.

"If I am faced with the choice between religion and my country, I will choose my fatherland," he emphasized.

Father D'Escoto, who saw no conflict between revolutionary action and religion in a country (Nicaragua) where the majority of the people are Catholics and reconcile their traditional struggle with their religious convictions, expressed regret over the reactionary attitudes of the clergy.

"Imperialism's principal ally in Nicaragua is the Episcopal Conference, which supports the aggressors," Father D'Escoto emphasized, revealing that recently, "some bishops went to Washington to encourage President Reagan to continue recruiting mercenaries to assassinate our people."

"The country is united and organized under a single body, the Sandinist National Liberation Front," he said, calling on his colleagues in the clergy who are still hesitating to join the revolutionary process.

The "contras" have been annihilated and the only imminent aggression to which Nicaragua is exposed daily is American aggression, he said.

Father D'Escoto paid a 4-day official visit to Congo. During his stay, he held several discussions with Congolese officials. He was received in audience by President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

GABON

Goukouni Oueddei Leaves for Benin 17 Apr

AB171130 Paris AFP in French 1046 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Libreville, 17 Apr (AFP) — Former GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] President Goukouni Oueddei left here this morning for Cotonou. Mr Goukouni is expected to meet with Beninese President Mathieu Kerekou before returning to Libreville within 48 hours, a member of the Chadian delegation indicated.

According to unofficial sources, a Gabonese emissary, Mr Koumba Mouity — President Omar Bongo's adviser — has left for Ndjamena with a message for President Hissein Habre. The message is certainly related to the talks which President Bongo and Mr Goukouni held yesterday morning for about 2 hours, and during a dinner hosted by the Gabonese president later in the evening.

There is optimism among members of the former GUNT president's delegation about the chances for reconciliation. "We are calling for the genuine participation of all Chadians in the task of national construction, but we cannot go over blindfolded," Ahmed Kailan, Goukouni's permanent under secretary, told AFP. "Lasting reconciliation is no easy task," he added, denying that Goukouni had requested a cabinet post.

BENIN

Goukouni Defines Stand on Chadian Reconciliation

AB172220 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] The president of the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government], Brother Goukouni Oueddei, arrived in our country this afternoon. President Goukouni Oueddei, who arrived on a special Air Gabon Airlines flight, was welcomed on arrival at the airport precisely at 1245 by Comrade Guy Landry Hazoume, our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. At the VIP lounge of Cotonou-Cajehoun International Airport President Goukouni Oueddei, who was accompanied by a large GUNT delegation, told our colleague Gerald Amega from the national television network about the framework for his trip to Benin:

[Begin recording] [Goukouni] If I have come here today for a [words indistinct] it is within the framework of a friendly visit. Also, I am taking this opportunity to brief President Mathieu Kerekou on developments in the situation, that is, the turn being taken in our cause and situation, for he has often made the Chadian cause his own. It is therefore our duty to come to thank him viva voce, and brief him fully and explain everything to him.

[Amega] Mr President, you also paid a visit to Ivory Coast and Gabon. Were those trips the first steps toward a reconciliation with Mr Hissein Habre, as the Western media likes to say?

[Goukouni] Concerning my stance on national reconciliation, I think that I have adopted a position that has been clear since 17 October 1986. Since that date, all those who share the same ideals, either within or outside the country, adopted the position that apart from reconciliation no other solution is possible. At the beginning of 1987, I reiterated the same viewpoints in Tripoli, after which I went to Algiers. It was with this same idea that I recently made trips to the Ivorian and Gabonese capitals, still within the same context, that is, to take the opportunity of this lull to try to explain to a certain number of heads of state the developments in the Chadian situation and our way of viewing this reconciliation, which many countries want to help us achieve.

[Amega] Mr President, what concrete form must this reconciliation with Mr Hissein Habre take, if we recall in particular your recent statements in the Gabonese capital?

[Goukouni] Our position concerning national reconciliation remains constant, and I think the international community can judge us well from 17 April [date as heard], the date on which I officially took a stand in difficult times. We have turned a new page in Chadian history and this new page has generated a situation which, I think, the national and international public can interpret as it likes.

Concerning national reconciliation, we accept it entirely and without reservation. If it is a question of reconciliation, the two sides must agree to have dialogue and discussions and to come to agreement on a certain number of controversial points. If national reconciliation is understood in this sense, I think that, in the interests of the country and the Chadian people, we have no objection to signing an agreement or going to Ndjamena to contemplate the reconstruction of the country and its socioeconomic development. Its growth, by the way, lags far behind other African countries that won independence when we did. However, if reconciliation is viewed as abdication, or a rallying around a regime, it is out of the question. I think our position is very clear: After 20 years of revolutionary struggle under the banners of the Frolinat and the GUNT, we are not ready to kowtow to those currently in power in Ndjamena. But if it is a question of holding discussions among brothers, among Chadians, with the goal of pooling our efforts and carrying on the struggle side by side and together for the development of the country, we are ready. [end recording]

Meets With President Kerekou

AB182120 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] His Excellency Goukouni Oueddei, the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] president, was granted an audience this morning by President Mathieu Kerekou at the presidential office. President Goukouni Oueddei arrived in our country on a visit yesterday.

President Goukouni made no statement to the press afterward.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Leaves for CEAO Summit in Mauritania

AB191820 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The comrade president of Burkina Faso left Ouagadougou very early this morning for Praia, Cape Verde, en route to Nouakchott. In the Mauritanian capital, Captain Thomas Sankara and his colleagues will attend the 12th summit of the heads of state of the West African Economic Community, CEAO.

The Nouakchott conference follows the historic Ouagadougou summit whose achievements cannot be ignored — that is, the organization of the youth festival of CEAO member-countries and the trial concerning the 6 billion CFA francs [trial of former CEAO secretary general accused of embezzling the organization's funds]. In any event, Burkina Faso has accomplished the mission it was assigned by the 10th CEAO summit in Bamako.

Money being the sinews of war, it is clear that the implementation of the economic integration policy of the organization will not be possible since 6.5 billion CFA francs of its funds have been stolen. The trial concerning the 6 billion CFA francs is a clear demonstration of Burkina Faso's determination to achieve economic integration. Burkina Faso believes that Africa's economic development depends on the creation of economic zones — that is, economic groupings by Africans and for Africans alone.

This concept of economic development being applied by African countries is the result of a historic development that has today reached its third stage. The first two stages were the demand for political emancipation and the Africanization of cadres. What African countries must do now is succeed in selling what they produce at home first, which will help develop their economies. This means that people should consume what they produce, and Burkina Faso is not the only country to call for this policy which, in fact, is advocated everywhere around us.

However, people will try to accuse Burkina Faso of willfully undermining the very foundation of the CEAO for having recently decided to produce and consume its own (?fruits) after banning any further imports. These detractors of Burkina Faso should remember that CEAO Article 51 provides for this type of arrangement for a certain period.

This decision does not mean that Burkina Faso intends to choke in isolation; rather, it calls for the implementation of CEAO agreements by all member-states. Burkina Faso also seeks compensated trade among CEAO member-countries and is ready to support the organization should it decide to pursue a protectionist policy against European products.

April 15 Declared Libyan Solidarity Day

AB180822 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] April 15, 1986 is hereby declared a historic day of peace and solidarity of revolutionary peoples throughout the world with the Libyan people. This is an indication of the international nature of the revolution. This was announced in Burkina Faso by the Burkinabe Society of Research and Study of the Green Book, (?CERBEL), which is striving to bring about peace and friendship among all peoples. It also expressed its satisfaction with the revolutionary attitude of the Burkinabe authorities, who reaffirmed their unflinching support for world peace on this occasion. The (?CERBEL) hereby pledges its support to the Great Jamahiriyah under the clear-sighted leadership of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This is in line with the support granted by the Burkinabe Government to Libya.

CAPE VERDE

Burkina Faso's Sankara Arrives for Visit

AB192050 Paris AFP in French 1745 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Praia, 19 Apr (AFP) — The Burkinabe head of state, Captain Thomas Sankara, arrived in Praia today for a 24-hour working visit to Cape Verde.

He was welcomed on arrival by President Aristides Pereira, who was accompanied by National Assembly Speaker Abilio Duarte, Prime Minister Pedro Pires, and some cabinet members.

Shortly after President Sankara's arrival, a luncheon was hosted in his honor. He will leave Praia on Monday [20 April] morning for Nouakchott, where he will participate in the summit of West African Economic Community (CEAO) member-states.

GHANA

Accra Radio Announces Cabinet Reshuffle

AB200630 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The following changes in ministerial responsibilities and new appointments have been made by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] with immediate effect:

— Secretary for Mobilization and Productivity: Mr George Adamu;

— Secretary for Lands and Mineral Resources: Mr Kwame Peprah;

— Secretary for Transport and Communications: Mr Yaw Donkor;

— Secretary for Roads and Highways: Lieutenant Colonel Mensah Gbedemah;

— Secretary for Fuel and Power, and also in charge of the Special Interministerial Secretariat on the Structural Adjustment Program: Mr Ato Ahoi;

— Secretary for Works and Housing: Mr E. Appiah-Korang;

— Secretary for Local Government: Mr W.H. Yeboah;

— Secretary in the Office of the Chairman of the Committee of Secretaries: Miss Joyce Aryee;

— Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs: Dr Mohammed Ibn Chambass;

— Deputy Secretary for Volta Region: Dr K. Adjei. [passage omitted on appointment of district secretaries]

Dr Kofi Sam and Mr Steve Akuffo have been suspended from their duties as PNDC secretary and deputy secretary [for works and housing] respectively, pending the completion of the reports of the cement probe.

Government Might Merge Revolutionary Organs

AB182212 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] The government is seriously considering the merging of all the revolutionary organs to ensure an effective dissemination of policies and the mobilization of the people for an accelerated development. This was disclosed by the political counsellor for CDR's [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution], Lieutenant Colonel J.Y. Assase, at the second Easter school for cadres at Cape Coast.

He said the present rivalry among these organs has been retarding the revolutionary process. He hoped such a merger would instill discipline, sense of duty, and unity among cadres. The political counsellor regretted that some cadres have not kept faith with the pledges they made. He said the result is that the majority of the people cannot still understand the objectives of the revolution and the CDR concept.

He commended cadres of Burkina Faso for working hard to enhance the revolution in their country and mobilize the people to participate in all aspects of national life. Lt Col Assase advised Ghanaian cadres to take a cue from their Burkinabe counterparts and work hard to meet the expectations of the people. He said a brigade would be formed within the revolutionary organs to embark on economically viable ventures to generate funds for their operations.

Addressing the participants on the district level elections, the acting secretary for local government and a member of the National Commission for Democracy, Dr Ayirebi Acquah, called on the cadres to educate the people on the need for the election. He regretted that district councils have limited their activities to the collection of market polls and other revenues without undertaking development projects.

The 6-day school is being attended by 250 cadres from the Central and Western Regions.

Several Said Killed in Clan Clashes in North

AB171740 Paris AFP in French 1644 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Accra, 17 Apr (AFP) — Several people were killed and several others wounded at the beginning of the week during clashes between rival clans in northern Ghana, the *Ghanaian Press Agency*, GNA, said, quoting a governmental source.

Huudu Yahaya, regional secretary for northern Ghana, said during a news conference that despite a recent decree issued by the Supreme Court regulating traditional chieftaincy succession, many clashes are taking place, lives are being lost, and property is being destroyed.

28 Rearrested in Dispute

AB182150 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Twenty-eight people have been rearrested by the police on charges of arson and murder in the Yendi [word indistinct] dispute. They are to appear before the Northern Regional Tribunal. The 28 had earlier been granted bail by a Tamale court, but had continued to indulge in acts which undermined law and order in the area.

A number of other professional agitators, who have been fanning factionalism and disorder, have also been arrested. They include Alhaji (Ibrahim Mahama), Alhaji (Sumani Zacharia), (Yo-Naa Abdulai), Alhaji (Ziblim Gbangbanwora), (Abderrahmani Tii), and Alhaji (Awulu Zambrama). The others are (Roland Isifu Alhassan), Alhaji (Yahaya Idi), Alhaji (Ahmadu Yakubu), (Zanglana Ziblim Alhassan), and (Kalsina).

It will be recalled that the Northern Regional secretary, Mr Huudu Yahaya, last Thursday warned some chiefs and citizens of the country over their intransigence and uncompromising attitude. He said their provocative actions and negative advice have been responsible for the continuing chieftancy unrest. The regional secretary made it clear that the present situation cannot be allowed to continue and said firm and defensive measures will be taken to bring peace to (Dagbong) and to ensure that the impending farming season is not disrupted.

Soviet Ambassador Outlines Aid Initiatives

AB181712 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Arrangements are far advanced for the signing of an agreement between Ghana and the Soviet Union for the completion of rehabilitation work on the Tarkwa gold mine. The Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Mr Semenov, disclosed this when he inspected the project at Tarkwa as part of a 2-day familiarization tour of the Western Region. He said the rehabilitation work would be completed in a year's time. According to the ambassador, Soviet experts estimate that the work will cost $1 million. The refinery, which has the capacity to process 25 tons of gold annually, can handle all the gold produced in the country.

At a meeting with representatives of revolutionary organs at Tarkwa, Mr Semenov announced that Soviet medical experts are expected to work in Ghanaian hospitals under a bilateral agreement to be signed soon. He said under the agreement, Soviet professors will also teach in medical schools in Accra and Kumasi. Mr Semenov said Soviet scholarships to Ghana, which now stand at 250, will be increased to 270 next year to enable more Ghanaians to undertake courses in institutions of higher learning in the Soviet Union. The under secretary for the region, Anthony Kojo Amoako, commended the Soviet Union for her continued economic assistance to Ghana.

PNDC's Annan Leads Delegation to Hungary

AB200914 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] A member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Mr Justice D.F. Annan, has flown to Budapest at the head of a 3-member government delegation on a visit to Hungary. The visit is at the invitation of that government. The other members of the team are the outgoing secretary for mobilization and productivity, Mr William Yeboah, and the executive secretary for the National Commission for Democracy, Mr E.A. Haizel.

Libyan Friendship Society Inaugurated

AB162240 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] In Kumasi, the Ghana-Libya Friendship Association was inaugurated today. At the ceremony, the Ashanti regional secretary, Colonel Osei-Wusu, expressed the determination of both Ghana and Libya to continue to lead the fight against imperialism. This will ensure that all Africans fully realize their dignity and aspirations. He said Ghana shares the pain and agony that Libya suffered as a result of last year's American raid on that country.

GUINEA

Conte Returns to Conakry After Europe, Asia Tour

AB181014 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The head of state, General Lansana Conte, today returned to Conakry after a 1-week trip that took him to Europe and Asia. The head of state told our reporters on arrival that he was satisfied with the visit, which, he said, helped to further strengthen the bonds of cooperation between Guinea and the countries he visited. [passage omitted]

USSR Donates Audiovisual Equipment to University

AB161215 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The Soviet Embassy has donated audiovisual equipment to the Electronics Department of Conakry University. The presentation ceremony, which took place at the university this morning, was presided over by Ahmed Tidiane Traore, secretary of state for higher education and scientific research. On the occasion, the rector of the university, (Nangamoudou Magasoba), recalled the [words indistinct] toward the installation of an audiovisual class at the university. For his part, the Soviet ambassador to Guinea praised the quality of teaching at Conakry University and recalled the place that this university occupies in the program of the Soviet Ministry for Higher Education. [passage omitted]

GUINEA-BISSAU

Technical Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR

AB160639 Dakar PANA in French 0911 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Bissau, 15 Apr (ANG/PANA) — Guinea-Bissau and the Soviet Union yesterday signed a protocol agreement on economic and technical cooperation. Under the terms of the accord, the Soviet Union will supply Guinea-Bissau with sugar and cement worth 300,000 rubles this year.

According to the agreement, which was signed by Armando Lobo de Pina, secretary general at the Ministry of Trade, and Yuriy Savkov, the head of a Soviet trade delegation in Guinea-Bissau, the proceeds from the sale of these products will be used to finance the construction of a diesel electricity power plant in Bissau by the Soviet Union.

The loan, which is to be repaid within 5 years, falls within the framework of the draft accord on economic and technical cooperation signed on 6 March 1986.

IVORY COAST

Houphouet-Boigny Receives France's Le Pen

AB151805 Paris AFP in French 1024 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Abidjan, 15 Apr (AFP) — The 36-hour visit to Ivory Coast on Monday and Tuesday [13 and 14 April] by Mr Jean-Marie Le Pen, the chairman of the National Front (FN — France's extreme right), passed without mention in the Ivorian media.

Although he was received in audience by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny (who held a dinner in his honor on Monday), Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Simeon Ake, and the cardinal-archbishop of Abidjan [title as received], Msgr Bernard Yago, television, radio, and the national press ignored his trip on both Monday and Tuesday.

During his stay in Abidjan, Mr Le Pen paid glowing tribute to the Ivorian head of state, and announced that the National Front, together with other political groups in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, will campaign on behalf of a Nobel Peace Prize for President Houphouet-Boigny.

LIBERIA

Opposition Parties Allowed To Publish Newspapers

AB170916 London BBC World Service in English
0630 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] The Liberian Government has given permission for opposition political parties to publish newspapers, but putting certain guidelines. The information minister, Mr Emmanuel Bowier, told the meeting of the ruling National Democratic Party in Monrovia that the government was granting the permission because President Samuel Doe has vowed to uphold the rights of the people, including the freedom of the press. Under the guidelines, however, the political parties are expected to refrain from sectarianism, the promotion of religious confrontation, and any action which tended to instill fear, disunity, and insecurity. They are also instructed to guard against personal attacks and news distortion.

NIGERIA

Recent Kaduna Violence Said To Claim 19 Lives

AB152018 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] A total of 19 people were killed and 73 others were injured during the recent disturbances in Kaduna State. Out of the number, 12 were killed in Kafancha, 6 in Kaduna, and 1 in Zaria. The figure was announced in Kaduna today, before the committee into the disturbances, by the assistant police commissioner in charge of operations in the state, Mr Alukolawale Ajayi. He said the police were outnumbered in various areas where the rampage took place.

The assistant commissioner of police also said the people arrested were caught on the scene of the destruction, adding that the police were still screening the suspects for handing over to the Investigation Bureau. He said rumormongering fueled the crisis and called on the government to enlighten the public on the need to be tolerant during such crises. The police agreed that (?enough) efforts were not made in Zaria as was the case in Kaduna, adding that the substantive chairman of Zaria local government was on leave and the acting chairman did not know much about the procedures for a security meeting. On the request by the chairperson, Mrs (Antodolin), to the [words indistinct] and hoped to catch up with him any time.

Appearing for the second time before the committee today, the managaing director of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, Kaduna, Alhaji Mamadu Ibrahim, told the (?government) committee that report on the disturbances was only carried by the station after the governor's return from Kafanchan. The zonal director of the station and a reporter accompanied the governor to Kafanchan and it was not until Monday, the 9th of March, that the first report on the violence was used.

Alhaji Mamadu Ibrahim further explained that an earlier release issued by the Muslim Student Society was not used, as it was considered volatile and inciting. He said the media could not be blamed by the public without due consideration of the procedure undergone before reporting that.

Mrs (Antodolin), the chairperson of the committee, said the committee would still study the bulletins submitted as exhibits and listen to the cassettes, and, if possible, recall the zonal director in camera.

Also, in memoranda submitted to the committee today, Shaykh Abubakar Muhammadu Gomi said he had never resorted to violence at any level nor did he encourage or condone any form of violence throughout his teaching career. Shaykh Abubakar Gomi said violent atmosphere was not conducive for propagating Islam and that no one can be compelled to accept the religion. He added that only within a peaceful atmosphere would anyone understand and appreciate whatever he has been taught.

Oil Production at OPEC Quota Level in March

AB171111 Paris AFP in English 0954 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Lagos, April 15 [date as received] (AFP) — Nigeria's oil production rose to an average of 1.23 million barrels a day last month, almost exactly the quota allotted to it as a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), industry sources said here on Wednesday [15 April].

Last month, after spot prices fell below the official selling price, Nigeria was only exporting 1.16 million barrels of oil a day, the sources said.

SIERRA LEONE

Army Leave Canceled; National Day Moved to 29 Apr

AB171554 Paris AFP in French 1435 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Freetown, 17 Apr (AFP) — All soldiers currently on leave, including officers, were ordered on Thursday, 16 April, by the Ministry of Defense to return to their units immediately. The ministry did not give reasons for this order, which was issued a day after the statement by President Joseph Momoh that the dismissal and house arrest of Vice President Francis Misheck Minah at the beginning of the month was not intended to hamper the police inquiry into the abortive coup d'etat of 23 March.

On the case of Mr Minah, in an interview with the pro-government weekly *New Citizen*, President Momoh asserted that the vice president had allocated 20,000 bags of rice to himself in spite of the rice shortage in the country. [Paris AFP in English at 1420 GMT on 17 April in a similar report adds: "A joint police-military operation in Mr Minah's hometown in Pujehun District also resulted in the arrests of his sister, paramount chieftainess Yayu Lansana Minah, and 13 other people."]

President Momoh also called on Sierra Leonean political leaders, who fled abroad during President Siaka Stevens' regime, to return to their country and take part in the 26th independence anniversary celebrations which will be celebrated this year for the first time on 29 April and not on 19 April.

Federation of Muslim Organizations Created

AB171855 Paris AFP in French 1303 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Freetown, 17 Apr (AFP) — The Federation of Muslim Organizations of Sierra Leone [Federation des Organisations Musulmanes de Sierra Leone] (FOMSL), designed to coordinate relations between Muslims of Sierra Leone and foreign governments and international Muslim organizations, has been created in Freetown, it was learned from official sources on Thursday [16 April].

Sierra Leone's first vice president, Mr Abu Kamara, said during the adoption of the FOMSL constitution that the federation "will bring an end to the uncontrolled proliferation of organizations whose past activities did not honor the government and people of Sierra Leone." Mr Kamara said "the only aim" of the authorities "is to set up an all-embracing body that will serve the interests of all Muslims."

The decision to abandon the Supreme Islamic Council [Conseil Supreme Islamique] (CSI), which was responsible for the activities of Muslims in Sierra Leone and their relations abroad, followed accusations of fraud and corruption which, according to observers, were tarnishing the country's image.

Mr Kamara thus indicated that he personally put pressure on the government to "grant the CSI $50,000 to assist pilgrims intending to make the pilgrimage to Mecca," and that the council "never rendered accounts of how these funds were used."

For his part, the CSI chairman rejected these charges, pointing out that they wanted to "set up a rival organization to oppose his council."

News Agency To Be Commissioned in Freetown

AB160655 Dakar PANA in English 0812 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Freetown, 15 Apr (SLENA/PANA) — The *Sierra Leone News Agency* (SLENA) will be commissioned in Freetown today.

The first phase of the project, executed under the joint effort of UNESCO and the Government of Sierra Leone, includes installation of teleprinters, a generator, antennae, maintenance equipment, and distributor for subscribers.

SLENA has already been admitted into the West African News Agency Development (WANAD), a West German Government trust and funded programme.

UNESCO's regional communication adviser Johnny Mcclain, who is in Freetown for the commissioning ceremony, has said WANAD will assist SLENA in implementing its second phase programme in developing and linking its provincial centers in Bo, Kenema, Koidu, and Makeni with Freetown.

The director-general of the Dakar-based headquarters of the *Pan-African News Agency* (PANA), Auguste Mpassi-Muba, will attend today's commissioning ceremony.

TOGO

Eyadema, Benin's Kerekou Visit Joint Project Site

AB181700 Lome Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Excerpts] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the RPT [Rally of the Togolese People], and Gen Mathieu Kerekou, the Beninese head of state, traveled to Nangbeto in Togolese territory this morning, where they visited the work site of the hydroelectric dam complex. It is a joint Beninese-Togolese project on the Mono River, which is expected to permit the two countries to be self-sufficient in electric power as soon as it goes on line. [passage omitted]

The Nangbeto Dam, built entirely on Togolese soil, is a joint initiative of Benin and Togo. As was stated by Mr Boukari, the director of the Benin Electricity Community, [Communaute Electrique du Benin — CEB], its aim is not only to supply the two countries with electric power, but also to permit the irrigation of land and regulate the torrential flow of the Mono River, which floods constantly in the rainy season.

Started in October 1984, the work is scheduled to be completed in September. With a power generation capacity of 65 megawatts, the Nangbeto hydroelectric dam has a planned production capacity of 15 million kilowatt-hours a year. [passage omitted]

ANGOLA

Dos Santos on Terms for Cuban Troop Withdrawal

FL151543 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has said it would be naive to think that a complete withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola is possible while threats and acts of aggression against the Angolan people continue. The Angolan head of state noted that his government believes a settlement of the conflict in Southern Africa must include a solution to the apartheid problem in South Africa, Namibian independence, and an end to the policy of destabilization practiced against the Frontline States. Without an overall solution to all these problems, it is naive to think a complete pullout of Cuban forces is possible, Dos Santos added.

Dos Santos also discussed the serious situation in South Africa and stressed that Angola is willing to talk to achieve regional peace and stability. However, it will not compromise its principles.

Dos Santos was speaking at the closing session of a meeting of the MPLA-Labor Party's youth wing.

U.S.-Zairian Maneuvers Linked to 'Subversion'

MB182000 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Military maneuvers involving U.S. and Zairian troops will begin today, Saturday, and will continue over the next 2 weeks near Angola's northern border. An ANGOP report today quotes the London weekly *West Africa* as mentioning the Zairian Army's participation in the exercises, which will be held at the Kamina Air Force Base.

West Africa says the maneuvers are probably linked to the American military's plans to control Kamina and use it as a base for its Rapid Deployment Force. According to the London magazine, the presence of U.S. troops in Kamina was discussed during a visit by General Thomas Richard, commander of U.S. forces in Europe and Africa [words indistinct]

Discussing the exercises, which began today, the Paris magazine *Afrique-Asie* expressed its belief that they are likely to revive the danger of subversion in the entire region, given America's plans to create a center in Zaire to destabilize such countries as Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Sudan, and Uganda. According to *Afrique-Asie*, the maneuvers are designed to train commandos as part of a great plan of regional subversion conceived by Washington.

In one of its latest editions, the Uruguayan newspaper *Prensa* carried a report headlined "Angola Under Fire." The piece deals with the ongoing military and (?economic) war against Angola by the racist Pretoria regime. The author says Angola is a favorite target for U.S. destabilization. She recalled that the proceeds from the Iran arms deal were sent to the Nicaraguan contras and ended up in UNITA hands. (Beatriz Vitio), who was in Angola recently to get the facts about this country, noted the scope of America's designs by recalling President Reagan's use of the term freedom fighter to describe the ringleader of the UNITA puppet gang when the U.S. President received him with full honors in Washington in 1986. This was condemned by the African countries.

The journalist stresses that amid all these machinations [words indistinct] President Reagan, labeling the lackey Savimbi a proponent of Western values [words indistinct] in Angola just as the contras defend [words indistinct] (?the journalist then mentions) the continued occupation of part of Angola by troops of the racist Pretoria regime. Its goal is to maintain its military presence and coordinate the puppet gangs [words indistinct].

Referring to Angolan policy on Southern Africa, the journalist notes the proposal for a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, which President Jose Eduardo dos Santos sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in 1984. That initiative was supported by the Frontline States. The invitation to President Reagan in 1986 to tour the region and see the Pretoria regime's aggressive policy for himself was also cited.

UNITA Demands Talks To Reopen Benguela Railroad

MB181914 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] UNITA says it is in control of the strategic Benguela railway line in Angola and will not reopen it unless the Marxist government agrees to negotiate with UNITA. A spokesman for UNITA said today a plan by the leaders of Angola, Zambia, and Zaire to reopen the 1,930-km railway line would not succeed without negotiations. UNITA is quoted as saying: If they do not negotiate, the railway would not be able to reopen.

[Begin Savimbi recording] The railway is a part of the structure we are contesting. The Cubans will be involved in this railway again. The Cubans are involved in our country. So we hope that their brothers in Zambia and Zaire will understand us, that we are not going to hit the railway because of hatred of...[changes thought] against Zambia, against Zaire, but because we cannot fight a war in Angola without attacking the Benguela railway. [end recording]

BOTSWANA

Greater Vigilance Sought Following RSA Threats

MB171250 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Last week, South Africa was at it again, threatening dire consequences against Botswana for allegedly allowing the infiltration of African National Congress fighters from within its borders. The threat, made at an election rally by Foreign Minister Pik Botha, was first conveyed to the media before an official note was passed to Botswana's Department of External Affairs. Botswana interpreted this belligerence as a vote-catcher, a temptation to attract especially the right-wing vote in the coming 6 May white elections. The South African threat, though made in the heat of an election campaign, should be taken seriously, as similar utterances in the past were followed by unprovoked raids, murdering innocent and unarmed civilians in their sleep.

Defenders of the apartheid policy in South Africa, the National Party, are being pushed to the wall by other contenders in the whites-only elections. To save themselves, they are throwing all sorts of missiles blindly to hit the whole region in an attempt to assure diehard racists that their security was secure. Anything could happen between now and 6 May, and already with these threats, South African leaders have established a pretext under which to attack neighboring states.

As the struggle of the oppressed people in South Africa gains momentum inside the country, attracting international support from even erstwhile South African friends in the West, the South African leaders are beginning to have visions of ANC cadres lurking somewhere in the Frontline States. During his last years in power in Zimbabwe, Ian Smith spoke of never in a thousand years, and President P.W. Botha is now adopting the same stand. Botswana and the whole world must expect to live with this bully behavior until a democratic society accommodating all citizens of South Africa is created.

Botswana has never felt shy to tell the world that its territory is not used as a springboard to attack its neighbors, including South Africa. Several invitations have been extended to South Africa to come and identify the alleged ANC bases but none of this was ever honored. Despite that failure, South African accusations are still being hurled at Botswana across the border.

As the South African white elections near, Botswana and other Frontline States should take these threats seriously. The best that we, as Batswana, can do is to be vigilant. We should not shy away from supplying information about suspicious people and activities. Be alert to save your country, your fellow countrymen, and yourself. Remember, the best policeman is a vigilant patriot. The enemy takes advantage of any loose talk and laxity.

LESOTHO

Police Recover Weapons From Chief Jonathan's Home

MB181416 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] The police have reported the recovery this week of 4 rifles, 2 pistols, and 636 rounds of live ammunition of different calibers from the home of the late Chief Leabua Jonathan. The arms were recovered by the attorney general accompanied by two police officers and the late chief's attorney. This was part of the armory originally kept by the late chief under the Firearms Certificate No 957 of 1970. On inspection of the said firearms certificate, the police found FN rifles, an NM shotgun, two .38 special revolvers, and ammunition. Two-hundred-and-sixty-four rounds of live ammunition were missing. In addition, an AK-47 machine gun, which did not appear in the license and was therefore unknown to the authorities, was found.

In January this year the late Chief Jonathan contested the revocation the said firearms certificate by the commissioner of police in the high court. The case was postponed several times at the request of the late chief's legal counsel. Police say it should be noted that most of these firearms may not be issued to individuals and were appropriated by the late Chief Jonathan in his capacity then as prime minister through arbitrary instructions. It was the military government's decision that he should surrender these weapons when his government was overthrown in January 1986, as he became an ordinary citizen and should, therefore, have abided by the laws of the country. The government hopes that Chief Jonathan's family will take speedy action to search for and make available those items that are missing because they belong to this nation.

MOZAMBIQUE

President Chissano Returns From Luanda Summit

MB171437 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1400 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] President Joaquim Chissano returned to Maputo this afternoon after taking part in yesterday's summit in Angola with Presidents Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola.

On his flight back to Maputo, President Joaquim Chissano stopped over in Harare, the Zimbabwean capital, where he was received by President Canaan Banana.

Before leaving Luanda, the Mozambican head of state met in his residence with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Chissano Hails Zimbabwe's Role Against 'Banditry'

MB171131 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] President Joaquim Chissano has praised the Republic of Zimbabwe for its solidarity with the People's Republic of Mozambique in the elimination of armed banditry, the apartheid regime's instrument of destabilization. This was contained in a congratulatory cable from the Mozambican head of state to Canaan Banana, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, on the 7th anniversary of the proclamation of national independence, which will be celebrated tomorrow. The Mozambican leader's message stressed our appreciation for Zimbabwe's involvement in the struggle for liberty, peace, and justice in Southern Africa and the world.

Machungo Reveals Plan To Reopen Limpopo Railroad

MB161652 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] The Limpopo railroad may become operational this year. This was revealed in Maputo by Prime Minister Mario Machungo. In an interview with a correspondent from Irish radio and television, Machungo said Mozambique was initiating cooperation with Great Britain and Zimbabwe to rehabilitate the line and make it operational.

The Limpopo railroad links Zimbabwe to the port of Maputo, and is one of the cheapest and fastest routes for Zimbabwean imports and exports.

The Mozambican prime minister noted that some significant traffic is expected on the Limpopo line by the end of the year.

He added that military cooperation with Great Britain included the training of forces to defend the Limpopo corridor.

Mario Machungo also explained that the second phase of the Nacala railroad rehabilitation program was now being launched after the conclusion of the Nacala-Nampula rehabilitation process.

Bank Governor Returns From France, GDR, USSR

MB151148 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The governor of the Bank of Mozambique, Eneias Comiche, returned to Maputo this morning after official visits to France, the German Democratic Republic, and the Soviet Union. In Moscow, Eneias Comiche held talks with officials of the International Bank of Economic Cooperation and the Bank of Investment.

Military Kills 30 'Bandits' in Niassa Clashes

MB191422 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The Mozambique Armed Forces killed 30 armed bandits recently in Mandimba, Niassa. A military source cited by our regional station in Lichinga said another four bandits were captured with their weapons during clashes in the settlement of Machado. On the same occasion, dozens of peasants who had been abducted by the armed bandits were freed.

18,000 Maputo Province Families Suffer From Hunger

MB171144 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Over 18,000 families in the Changalane administrative post in Maputo Province are seriously affected by hunger as a result of the prolonged drought that has hit various parts of our country. The administrator of the Changalane administrative post told a *Noticias* team that seven primary schools might have to interrupt operations if there is no food aid by the end of the month. The serious drought situation in that area of Maputo Province has existed since 1984. After becoming more acute last year, the people were directed to plant crops resistant to drought.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Warns Against U.S. Support for UNITA

MB191414 Dakar PANA in English 1405 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Harare, 19 April (ZIANA/PANA) — The South West Africa Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) today warned of a possible outbreak of a Vietnam-type war in Southern Africa due to the Reagan administration's support of racist South Africa and Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels in Angola.

In a statement to mark SWAPO's 27th anniversary today, the liberation movement said the linking of Namibian independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops in Angola, as insisted by the U.S. Government, meant support for the illegal military occupation of Namibia by South Africa.

The repeal of the Clark Amendment in the U.S. Congress, at the behest of the Reagan administration has meant U.S. material support to the bandits of UNITA.

What does these all end up to? In cold terms, it means U.S. intervention in Southern Africa. What we have at our hands in the very near future is another Vietnam in Southern Africa. This explains why Namibia is not free and independent today, said the statement.

It said because of U.S. diplomatic, political, financial and material support, the racist Pretoria regime had embarked on a campaign of mass terror in both South Africa and Namibia.

The statement added that faced with the Reagan creeping intervention and racist Pretoria's mass terror, SWAPO had initiated political, military and diplomatic counter-measures and that political mass mobilization has been intensified as attested by mass political meetings throughout Namibia in recent months.

This mass political upsurge has been quantitatively strengthened by the re-organised various trade unions under the umbrella of the National Union of Namibian Workers, an affiliate of SWAPO, said the statement.

It added that white businessmen and professionals, and anti-colonial forces in Namibia had formed groups in recent months aimed at agitating the immediate implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of that country.

There were women, youth and community organisations, progressive political groupings, all rejecting the U.S. linkage and demanding the immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435.

On the diplomatic front, SWAPO has been accorded full diplomatic recognition by about 10 countries and has representative missions in more than 30 countries and international organisations.

It has friendly relations with over 110 countries, and has thousands of students in over 50 countries. SWAPO continues to score more victories on the diplomatic fronts, said the statement.

It also said there had been a sharp escalation of military attacks by the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) combatants. PLAN had launched more than 130 attacks in the first quarters of this year. PLAN combatants have pinned down more than 128 South African soldiers, wounded more than 220, attacked 20 enemy bases, destroyed 54 combat vehicles, and shot down three enemy helicopter gunships, said the statement.

Meanwhile SWAPO's chief representative in Zimbabwe, Kapuka N. Nauyala, has called on the Frontline States and the international community to continue extending political, material and diplomatic support for his organisation.

In an interview with the Harare weekly *Sunday Mail* newspaper, Nauyala said the support for the Namibian struggle included the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against the Pretoria regime to accelerate victory for the peoples of Namibia and South Africa.

SEYCHELLES

Soviet Envoy Says Peace Zone Drive 'Bogged Down'

MB191424 Dakar PANA in English 1115 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Victoria, 19 Apr (SAP/PANA) — The Soviet Union (USSR) is ready to start negotiations at any time with the U.S. and other countries on reducing foreign military presence and activities in the Indian Ocean, outgoing Soviet Ambassador to the Seychelles Mikhail Orlov said in Victoria today.

Speaking before leaving for Moscow Orlov said that like Seychelles, the USSR attached great importance in the denuclearization and demilitarization of the area by powers outside.

Acknowledging that the zone of peace campaign was now bogged down, Orlov said the Soviet Union also backed the UN call for an international conference to be held on the issue not later than 1988.

I would like to underline that the Soviet Union has in the past supported and will continue to support efforts to create a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean and will do whatever is necessary to see this fulfilled, Orlov said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Foreign Governments Requested To 'Pressure' ANC

MB151138 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1136 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria, April 15, SAPA — The South African Government today called on foreign diplomats in Pretoria to request their respective governments to put pressure on the ANC to abandon violence. This, said diplomatic sources, was the gist of the briefing for envoys by the deputy director-general of foreign affairs, Mr Carel von Hirschberg.

The sources said Mr von Hirschberg also explained that Friday's ban on campaigns for the release of state of emergency detainees was aimed at preventing confrontation and to improve the chances for reconciliation.

A number of diplomats responded.

Miss Tessa Solesby, minister at the British Embassy, said her government was strongly opposed to all forms of violence. The underlying political and social problems forming the context for violence in South Africa had to be addressed. She described the new regulation as a serious and worrying development. Miss Solesby expressed her government's deep concern about the large number of emergency detainees, and called for them to be charged or released.

Diplomats — resentful about being summoned to the Union Buildings for a briefing on the ANC for the second time in a week — are said to consider their "manipulation" by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha as an election ploy.

Today's briefing was well-attended, although some missions reportedly dispatched junior representatives as an expression of protest.

Canada Protests Restrictions

MB161746 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1355 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria April 16 SAPA — The Canadian ambassador to South Africa, Mr Ronald Maclean, yesterday boycotted a foreign affairs briefing on the ANC's objectives — and later presented the government with a demarche expressing his government's concern over the new emergency regulation affecting detainees.

An embassy spokesman said Mr Maclean — who was received by the acting director-general of foreign affairs, Mr Carl von Hirschberg, yesterday afternoon — strongly urged the South African Government to reconsider its actions, and reiterated Canadian disapproval of detention without trial, especially of children.

Mr Maclean also expressed his government's concern about the heightening of tension in the southern African region as a result of a statement by senior members of the South African Government, warning of a possible ANC attack on South Africa and retaliatory action.

No hard evidence to verify these claims was tendered at the briefing.

Mr Maclean mentioned he did not attend yesterday's briefing for diplomats because he objected to the manner in which ambassadors were being summoned.

Foreign Affairs summoned envoys to two briefings on the ANC within a week.

The Canadian Embassy sent a junior political officer instead.

FRG Condemns New Laws

MB151544 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1527 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria April 15 SAPA — The West German secretary of state, Mr Juergen Ruhfus, today called in the South African ambassador and expressed strongly the government's condemnation of the renewed tightening of the security legislation in South Africa, a statement from the West German Embassy in Pretoria said.

The new legislation makes it punishable to express public support for people detained under emergency law or under the Internal Security Act.

The statement said the West German Government called upon the South African Government to withdraw immediately its latest emergency regulation by which the "human right of freedom of opinion is being further reduced and criminalised."

The West German Government said it expected that the state of emergency regulations do not limit the right of the churches to include detainees in their prayers.

In accordance with the joint position of its European partners, West Germany stands for the immediate and unconditional release of all political detainees as an essential requirement for the urgent start of a national dialogue in South Africa," the statement said.

Defense Minister Malan Addresses Public Meeting

Predicts U.S. Sanctions Request

MB160515 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2317 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Malmesbury April 15 SAPA — The minister of defence General Magnus Malan predicted today that the United States would initiate United Nations moves for total sanctions against South Africa. Addressing a public meeting here tonight, he said the sanctions imposed by the U.S. Congress on South Africa were working hand in hand with the revolutionary onslaught and were making South Africans poorer. However, the government could not comply with the demands made by the U.S. for the lifting of the sanctions. He believed that the U.S. would increase pressure on its trading partners as it had done with nations suspected of dealing in arms with South Africa.

"I also want to predict that the U.S. will go to the UN to ask for total sanctions against SA" because the republic had not met those conditions.

Notes ANC Warnings Purpose

MB160533 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2340 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Malmesbury April 15 SAPA — The government had issued warnings to neighboring states and diplomatic representatives about the planned African National Congress disruption of the election rather than being forced to make cross-border raids, the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, said tonight. Speaking in Malmesbury to an election meeting of about 100, he said the moves could take place in many spheres, including labour and schools.

It was for this reason that the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha had told the public last week of the plans to disrupt the election. Warnings had been issued to neighbouring states and Mr Botha had organised a conference of diplomatic representatives in South Africa. "The reason was to prevent enemy action against South Africa which could have forced us to take action against the terrorist onslaught which could even have resulted in us going across the border," Gen Malan said.

General Malan said an example of the complexity of the onslaught on SA was the coincidence of various incidents around July last year. These included the intensive "terrorist activity in townships," a combined Angolan, Cuban and Soviet offensive on UNITA's headquarters at Jamba in southern Angola, plans to infiltrate SWAPO insurgents via Zambia into eastern Caprivi in SWA/Namibia and into Kavango, as well as the relase by Frelimo of a Renamo soldier's diary alleging that the SADF had broken the Nkomati Accord.

Vows Enforcement of ID Law

MB160524 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2325 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Malmesbury April 15 SAPA — The government would enforce the bearing of identity documents in time by all races, the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, said tonight. Speaking at an election meeting here, he said he believed everyone should carry identity documents and that the practice should be instituted in South Africa as soon as possible. This should be done along the lines of documents carried in Europe. "We are going to do it, but it will take time."

Gen Malan said whites would have to be prepared to accept such regulations. They were the most important race in the "revolutionary onslaught" and he did not want to lose their cooperation.

72 Percent of Blacks Still To Apply for ID's

MB170809 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
16 Apr 87 p 13

[Text] The Department of Home Affairs says 72 percent of the black population in South Africa has not yet applied for the new identity document.

A spokesman for the department said 3,826,172 applications had been received from blacks since last July 1. Of these, 2,206,031 have been processed and mailed to collection points. So far, 1,247,841 ID documents mailed to collection points have been collected by applicants.

The spokesman says an average of 19,290 applications from blacks are being processed daily. At the present rate of applications, the project to issue ID documents to all blacks can be completed by the end of 1988.

"No reports of resistance to fingerprinting have been received, and the taking of fingerprints does not cause bottlenecks," he said. The figure for applications from blacks includes 253,986 held back pending negotiations with the Bophuthatswana government on the reinstatement of South African citizenship.

"Abnormal delays have occurred in respect of applications by Tswana citizens who indicated that they would like their former South African citizenship reinstated."

The spokesman said 97 percent of whites, 88 percent of coloureds, and 87 percent of Asians already had ID documents.

Since last July, 293,614 ID documents have been issued to whites, coloureds and Asians, with an average of 1,550 applications being processed daily.

New documents are only issued to these groups when applying for the first time, or for reissue after a change in marital status or for the insertion of a driver's licence.

PFP Claims Early Lead in Special Tallies

MB171702 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English
16 Apr 87 p 5

[Text] The PFP yesterday claimed an early lead in the first postal and special vote tallies in several key Nationalist seats throughout SA — and the Worrall campaign said special votes gave it a comfortable lead in Helderberg.

PFP national director Neil Ross said yesterday: "In the seats that count, we are generally very pleased with results."

In three PFP seats — Bezuidenhout, where the party had a 685 to 183 lead; Hillbrow where it had an approximate 400 to 350 lead; and Greytown, where it had a 175 to 21 lead — the promised NP onslaught had not taken place.

Among the other seats where the PFP claimed a lead were: Port Natal, which is held by the Natal leader of the NP and Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha; Durban North, which is held by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ron Miller; Helderkruin, where Deputy Minister of Information Stoffel van der Merwe is the current MP; Johannesburg West, which is held by Deputy Minister of Law and Order Roelf Meyer; Waterkloof, where Deputy Minister of Finance Org Marais is the sitting MP; and Simon's Town, where the late John Wiley was MP.

In the pivotal Helderberg seat, campaign workers for independent candidate Denis Worrall were claiming a comfortable lead.

However, campaign workers for NP candidate, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Chris Heunis, said their man had outscored Worrall by 760 to 74 on the first postal vote day.

But Worrall workers said their combined postal and special vote tally was "in excess of 1,400."

Winnie Mandela Denies ANC Plans To Disrupt Polls

MB190743 Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English
19 Apr 87 p 2

[By Gary van Staden]

[Text] The African National Congress had no intention of disrupting the "white man's election" which was a "circus of no interest" to black South Africans, Mrs Winnie Mandela said this week.

Mrs Mandela, wife of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela, was speaking this week at the Release Mandela Campaign's [RMC's] annual general council meeting at St Peters, Hammanskraal.

Addressing 103 official delegates from the RMC's 12 regions across the country as well as dozens of observers, Mrs Mandela said the ANC's only interest in the white elections was to note "with amusement how the racial clowns were dividing themselves.

"It (the election) is of interest only to scholars for study purposes to find out white racist trends in an absurdly sick society groping for an answer to save white South Africa," Mrs Mandela said.

"The ANC has no intention of disrupting anyone's election," she added.

Mrs Mandela warned the South African Government not to use the ANC as a "springboard" from which to destabilise southern Africa.

A copy of Mrs Mandela's speech was handed to *The Sunday Star* yesterday by RMC officials who said the Hamanskraal gathering had been a "roaring success."

According to Mrs Mandela, the government's "ploy" was to use the threat of cross-border raids to lure right-wing whites back into the fold.

"Pretoria should address itself to the root causes of its problems — apartheid," Mrs Mandela told the gathering.

She added that apartheid could never be reformed but had to be destroyed.

"To wipe out this crime against humanity requires a determined and sustained campaign on the part of our people and the international community."

RMC spokesmen said yesterday the campaign to broaden its base and mobilise multiracial grassroots support across the country was an attempt to carry the anti-apartheid struggle to the Government.

Mr Aubrey Mokoena (co-ordinator) and Mr Seth Mazibuko (publicity secretary) said the organisation would implement new structures to accommodate a wider base.

"We now regard it as essential to involve the man-in-the-street fully in the struggle against apartheid. The new structures and organisational set-up of the RMC are designed to achieve this," Mr Mokoena said.

"It is also essential that white South Africans do not take fright and flee from the country after liberation.

"We are not being naive about this. We are not saying that it will be easy for them (the whites) but we do not want to see an exodus either," Mr Mokoena added.

He said the RMC believed that getting this message across to white South Africans was an important task.

According to Mr Mokoena white South Africans would have to be "re-educated" to understand and accept that while they will no doubt encounter bitterness and frustration, much of it will be directed against the system itself rather than against individual whites.

At the RMC council meeting this week delegates were warned that in the short-term the future did not look very rosy.

A report issued at the meeting stated that delegates — and the rest of the country — could expect Government repression to increase, heavier casualties, and more detentions, arrests and trials.

In the long term, however, the apartheid system could be expected to collapse, the report added.

It was the transitional period which would be particularly difficult for white South Africans which was why the RMC believed it was important for them to understand it.

The new proposals for broadening the RMC's base of operations and for mobilisation of popular support included the establishment of an eight-member national executive committee.

Proposals for broadening the base included the establishment of a national co-ordinating council whose 30 members would represent all aspects of South African life pertaining to the anti-apartheid struggle.

These would include (among others) organisations concerned with labour, education and youth, the church, rural development, law and welfare and fund raising.

Below this the RMC planned to expand its regional organisations and increase the number of the branches.

Fund raising would be strictly within the confines of the law and the RMC intended to operate as a legal organisation, according to the spokesmen.

Action Plan Compiled

MB170727 Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English 16-23 Apr 87 p 9

[By Mono Badela]

[Text] Winnie Mandela has compiled a programme of action for local activists who feel they are "not part of the military wing" of the African National Congress (ANC). Mandela - wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela - presented the programme to delegates at the national launch of the Release Mandela Campaign (RMC) at Hammanskraal at the weekend. "There is no middle path," she told delegates.

"Apartheid can never be reformed - it must be destroyed. But that requires a determined campaign."

She urged activists within the RMC to intensify the campaign to isolate South Africa. They should:

Call for mandatory sanctions.

Call for an end to "collaboration" with South Africa.

Demand that Pretoria treat captured guerrillas as prisoners of war.

Demand Namibia's independence.

Demand that Pretoria stop "acts of aggression" against its neighbours.

Give support to "innocent victims of aggression and expansion."

Boycott all "products of apartheid."

Call for increased support for the ANC. She warned Pretoria not to use the ANC as an excuse for destabilising foreign countries, but instead to address itself to the cause of its problems - apartheid. "They are trying to divert the country's attention," she said.

She said the May 6 election would only be of interest to scholars, as "it will merely indicate the racist trends of an absurdly sick society."

Religious Figures Protest New Laws to P.W. Botha

MB161500 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1420 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Cape Town April 16 SAPA — Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Anglican archbishop of Cape Town, and 46 Anglican ministers have asked the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, to release or bring to trial those who are at present being held in detention.

In an open letter to Mr Botha today, the group said they realised, that in making the request, they were breaking the new regulations, but "we do so deliberately and consciously out of Christian conscience."

The letter stated that their reason for openly disobeying recent promulgations was that they considered them immoral and dangerous.

"To allow a system of detention without trial to continue is to our mind bad enough, but to forbid all protest against it is to undermine all that is good and decent in our soceity," the letter said.

"The fact that many of those detained are children simply underscores the seriousness of the situation.

"We believe the recent regulations are also dangerous because they abrogate the rule of law and take us into the realms of totalitarism."

"They give credence to all who believe that South Africa has now become a police state, and they court disaster for our country.

"With respect sir, we believe that the valid response that law-abiding citizens should make to these regulations is openly to disobey them as we are doing now," the letter said.

This was because some laws may be legal but at the same time they were "thoroughly immoral" as in the present case. True law could only be safeguarded by resisting legislation of this kind.

The group said they were aware there could be serious consequences following their letter, but these they were prepared to accept.

"Our real hope, however, is that you will hear the voices which have been raised by persons of far greater stature than ourselves, and will cause these regulations to be withdrawn," the letter concluded.

It was signed by: Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Anglican Ministers Charles Williams, Jeff Quinlan, Leslie Adriaanse, John Dyers, Trevor Steyn, J.A. Stubbs, Christopher Gregorowsky, David Bailey, Brian Hill, Terence Lester, Roderick Walsh, Frank Manley, Tim Brabington, Titus Daniels, John Goliath, Bob Demaar, Clement Sergel, Brian Walsh, Keith Devos, Roncliff Chisholm, Winston Ndungane, Ronald Taylor, Valerie Taylor, R. Alexander, D.V. Morgan, C.D. Sampson, A.G. Denis, R.F.G. Pearce, C. Ontong, S. Jacobs, V. Bastiaan, A.P. Gregorowsky, J.D. Pearson, M. Tisani, J. Frye, C. Hendricks, T.J. Green, J.J. Ogilvie, A.R. Burnett, C. Davids, R. Llewellyn, J. Titus, F. Isaacs, A. Jackson, M Weeder, C.J. Ahrends.

SACC Condemns New Curbs

MB170800 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English
16 Apr 87 p 2

[Advertisement issued by the South African Council of Churches, SACC]

[Text] **THUS FAR AND NO FURTHER**

WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED

Jesus described his mission as being:

To bring the good news to the poor

To proclaim liberty to the captives

To give the blind new sight

To set the captives free

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour (Luke 4:18-19). We believe that it is the moral duty of all faithful people to pray constantly, in public worship and in private devotions, for all those who are being held in South Africa's prisons and police cells.

We call upon all congregations to pray most earnestly for detainees and their deliverance this Easter Sunday as we rejoice in our deliverance from bondage to the forces of death and destruction through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to continue to pray on all succeeding days until all the detainees are free.

We furthermore believe that it is the duty of all South Africans to protest and to call on the Government for the repeal of the emergency regulations promulgated on April 10. It is the duty of all South Africans to seek to change the evils in our society.

"WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN" (Acts 5:29)

Chikane Named New SACC General Secretary

MB150945 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0927 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg April 14 SAPA — The Rev Frank Chikane, general secretary of the Institute of Contextual Theology and a former vice president of the United Democratic Front, has been appointed as general secretary of the South African Council of Churches [SACC] in succession to Dr Beyers Naude.

The decision to appoint Rev Chikane was unanimous by the extended presidium of the SACC in authorisation of the executive which met on April 7 and 8 to consider the appointment.

Rev Chikane will officially assume office on July 1.

At a press conference in Johannesburg today Rev Chikane said he had been called to take a crucial post at the worst crisis time in South Africa "where even engaging in acts of solidarity with detainees...is declared subversive."

"It is a time where the rights of our religious practice and expression are eroded systematically. It is a time when the mission of the church to the greater part of the South African population is curtailed.

"This lays an enormous responsibility on me, but I believe that the one who calls me is the same one who promised to be with us always up to the close of this age," he said.

Rev Chikane said he felt humbled to follow in the footsteps of "great prophets of our time" such as Cape Town's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the current SACC secretary general, Dr Beyers Naude.

The new secretary general has come from a denomination that is not a member of the SACC, the Apostolic Faith Mission, amd Mr Chikane said he would work towards beinging all Christian churches "to stand together as one in South Africa."

Mr Chikane was born in Orlando, Soweto on January, 1951. He matriculated from the Orlando High School and was studying for a BSC degree at the University of the Far North until he was expelled following a demonstration on the campus in support of Frelimo in 1977.

He is married and has two sons aged six and 12.

Rail Strike Spreads to Transvaal, Free State

MB161051 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1028 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg April 16 SAPA — Attempts by striking workers to meet the management of SA Transport Services [SATS] for talks to resolve the month-old railways dispute failed today with reports that the strike has spread to other parts of the country.

A spokesman for the SA Railways and Harbour Workers Union said SATS management today turned down requests by an elected negotiating team for negotiations to be reopened.

"To us this is proof that SATS was deceiving the public in press reports that it was always open to talks with representatives of strikers," said Mr Roussos.

Seven grade stewards of SATS in-house union, Blatu [Black Trade Union], had informed the depot manager at City Deep they could not negotiate on behalf of strikers as Blatu did not have their support, Mr Roussos added.

He said the union had received reports that railway workers in the northern and eastern Transvaal, as well as Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State, had joined the strike. The union estimated that more than 20,000 railwaymen were now out.

A SATS spokesman denied the reports and said only the southern Transvaal region was affected. He said some attempts to launch a stoppage had occurred in Bloemfontein but these had failed.

SATS figure for the number of workers out has, however, increased from 13,000 to 14,800. The spokesman said the increase could be linked to the disruption of railway services caused by arson attacks on train coaches.

He could not comment immediately on reports that SATS had refused to negotiate with the strikers and said an official statement would be issued later.

Arson Wreaks 'Havoc'

MB161451 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1342 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Johannesburg April 16 SAPA — A wave of arson attacks on trains in the PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging] area has caused havoc on the commuter routes as trains in the region were still running an hour late this morning, a spokesman for the SA Transport Services said.

PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] reports the company has put 75 buses — withdrawn during the December boycott — back on the roads, but was still unable to cope with the increased demand.

"We are operating at a stretch. There are not enough buses in South Africa to cope with the situation," a PUTCO spokesman said.

Yesterday and today black commuters were forced to use taxis and private cars to get to and from work.

A total of 48 coaches have been burnt in four days of arson and unrest on the railways.

SATS [South African Transport Services] was unable to estimate the damage, but believes it could be hundreds of thousands of rands. [passage omitted]

Information Bureau Issues 17 Apr Unrest Report

MB180918 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0914 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria, April 18, SAPA — Follows the unrest situation report for the 24-hour period ending midnight last night, issued by the Bureau for Information.

"The following attacks by black radicals on trains were reported:

"Millside station shunting yard Randfontein, 1 passenger coach and 1 engine coach were set alight. One man was arrested.

"Residensia station (Vereeniging), 1 petrol bomb thrown at passenger coach.

"Denver station, seats of 1 passenger coach set alight.

"Between Kekana and Hammanskraal, stones thrown at passenger train.

"Between Pretoria and Saulsville, a block of cement was thrown onto a train from an overhead bridge.

"In Kwadengezi, near Durban, a group of about 20 black radicals set three private homes alight, causing extensive damage. The security forces fired at the group, injuring a man, Sipho Msomi, who later died in hospital.

"Few other unrest-related incidents were reported."

18 Apr Report

MB191016 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1014 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria, April 19, SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report:

Unrest report (period 00h01 — 24h00) 19/4/87 [date as received]

No attacks on railway coaches were reported.

In Masilo, near Theunissen in the OFS [Orange Free State], a group of blacks threw stones at a member of the security forces, who fired two rounds in self defence, fatally injuring a black man, P. Hlalihle, 27.

In Soweto, a woman suffered minor injuries when a petrol bomb was thrown at a private home and in Boksburg, two white men sustained minor injuries when stones were thrown at their vehicles.

Only a few other minor unrest-related incidents were reported. In most of the country, no incidents occurred.

19 Apr Report

MB200844 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0843 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria, April 20, SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report for the 24-hour period to midnight:

"In the only reported attack on railway coaches during the past two days a passenger coach and an engine coach were set alight at Kaalfontein station, Kempton Park, last night.

"A man was arrested in Attridgeville near Pretoria yesterday evening after he had threatened to kill a woman and her daughter by burning them to death.

"At about midnight last night a group of blacks threw stones at two white mine workers who were walking to their work at President Brandt gold mine at Welkom.

"The police arrived and fired at the group, fatally wounding an unknown black man. The mine workers were not injured. It is not known at this stage whether this incident is unrest-related or not.

"The few other reported incidents were of a minor nature and caused negligible or no damage."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

18 Apr Press Review

MB180440[Editorial Report]

CITIZEN: U.S. 'Hostile' Country
"American Ambassador Edward Perkins has had a low profile up to now," observes the Johannesburg *Citizen* in English on 16 April in its page 6 editorial. "However, his government does not maintain a low profile, has a simplistic attitude to this country's problems, and openly sides with the radicals." "...South Africans are sick and tired of having the U.S. criticising us as if we were some kind of vassal of the Americans." "Instead of encouraging dialogue with South Africa...the U.S. abandons constructive engagement and goes for destructive sanctions." "From a friendly country, the U.S. has become a hostile one." "We will not give in to the U.S., but will work out solutions that are acceptable to our own people."

BUSINESS DAY: Eminent Persons Groups Antagonistic
"The suggestion by Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney that the Group of Seven — the world's major nations — intervene in South African affairs is no doubt well meant," observes Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 16 April in a page 8 editorial, "but many South African opponents of apartheid will flinch at the prospect of another group of eminent persons trying to take a hand in their future." "The readiness of the international community to embrace counter-productive sanctions, the clumsiness of many other interventions, and the malice of people like Australia's Malcolm Fraser are all calculated to make this country wary of foreign 'help.' In the end, South Africans must secure — or endure — their own future."

CAPE TIMES: Detainee Curbs 'Police State' Measure
"The Botha government's outrageous proclamation seeking to outlaw appeals for the release of detainees is itself the most graphic demonstration that the case for scrapping the system is unanswerable," comments Cape Town's *Cape Times* in English on 13 April in a page 8 editorial. Such restrictions make "inroads into the electoral process." They invoke "the methods of the police state to remove detainees and their plight from public attention." "The new regulations are indeed 'totalitarian bullying'.... Yet they may well be unworkable and unenforceable." "Archbishops Naidoo and Tutu of Cape Town have indicated that they cannot accept the regulations." "Unless wiser counsels prevail, President Botha will find himself at once in a constitutional crisis and a Church-state confrontation."

Alliance of Moderates Independents Destination
"The spectacle of more than 1000 people gathering in the Helderberg constituency last week to hear Mr D.P. 'Lang Dawid' de Villiers [former director of National Press] speaking in support of Dr Denis Worrall must have provided food for reflection in the Heunis camp," surmises a second editorial on the same page. "Mr De Villiers...is one of the most significant figures in the NP camp to throw his weight behind the independent movement." However, "for Mr De Villiers, and indeed Dr Worrall and the others, the big question to be resolved after May 6 will be their future role. This plainly is not going to be in the National Party. The independents have burned their boats. Mr Colin Eglin's alliance of moderates, surely, is their only ultimate destination."

Detainees Must Be Released
The government, in response to fierce opposition to the new curbs on statements regarding detainees, "has issued assurances that the ban applies only to inciting others to campaign for the release of detainees," notes Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 14 April in a page 8 editorial. "The incident is an exercise in gross

abuse of power. It shows how out of touch the Botha government is with the vast majority of people in this country, who oppose it. Of course, all detainees should be released without delay." "If it is some deep, illegal conspiracy to say that, then let it be said."

Business Must Speak Against Injustice

There was a "'deafening silence' from businessmen when confronted with government smear tactics casting doubt on the patriotism of its opponents," the *Cape Times* for 14 April says in a page 8 editorial. "Certainly, this appeared to be President Botha's aim in attacking [Barclays Bank Managing Director] Mr Chris Ball in Parliament. The message was not lost on other corporate leaders, most of whom have been frightened into silence." "When the country was duly plunged into a state of emergency, business leaders were still prepared to be seen on television wreathed in smiles, emerging from high level consultations with President Botha and declaring themselves well satisfied with economic policy. This hardly commends the free enterprise system to the black masses." "Business leaders, and all other South Africans of influence, would do well to speak out against injustice — and to stand by their fellows who have shown the way."

Sanctions Irresistible to West

"So far, sanctions have been applied in fits and starts largely as part of a fuzzy-headed, conscience-salving Western strategy to press Pretoria in an enlightened direction," observes a third editorial on the same page. "Yet, as public pressure builds up in the West...it can be assumed that the time is not too far off when...pressure for more measures will become irresistible." "In the short-term...it can be safely predicted that the immediate effects of sanctions will be to push the government rightwards, strengthening business resolve to survive and improvise...." "Sanctions, thus, could fuel the coming mini-boom. But in the long run, this country will be fatally sapped economically as it is progressively severed from its trading and cultural roots."

Pik Botha ANC Briefings 'Theatrical'

"The Minister of Foreign Affairs is looking increasingly theatrical, summoning the diplomatic corps for the second time in a few days" for an ANC briefing, remarks Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 15 April in a page 10 editorial. "The Pik Botha show is becoming a bore. Yet the ANC issue does need to be addressed in rational fashion and election stunts placed in perspective." Attention must be given to the extent of international communist influence in the ANC. "Yet the root cause of violence is not communist manipulation. It is the exclusion of the ANC and other black organizations from legitimate politics. The way to end the violence is to get negotiations going to redress this lamentable state of affairs."

NP Gives ANC Good Publicity

"The ANC bosses in Lusaka must be stunned by the publicity number National Party politicians are doing for them...in the run-up to the election," concludes Anthony Johnson in his "Midweek Politics" column on the same page. "If the Nat party faithful have harboured any doubts as to whether the ANC is a central player in the battle ahead, these must surely have been finally dispelled." "Government ministers obviously feel that using anti-ANC propaganda is a convenient short-term mechanism to scare white voters into the NP laager." "Voters are being asked to ignore the options or gradations in between in an apparent bid to stem the tide of defections from the NP fold." "Unfortunately for the National Party, it does not follow that the voteless masses uncritically accept the construction placed on events by the unrepresentative minority government." "Marx once observed that capitalists were their own best grave-diggers. If the Nats had been around at the time he might have extended the analogy to them, too."

TRANSVALER: Warning on ANC Preventive Measure

"The warning given to certain states" by Pik Botha "that they should not allow their territory to be used as a springboard for the ANC...should have driven home the seriousness of the situation to those countries," remarks Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 13 April in a page 14 editorial. "The government has acted correctly in taking this action. Indeed, it showed its readiness to take preventive measures from a position of strength for the sake of regional stability instead of merciless action later." "South Africa's might has never been fully used, but it can be if attacked."

RSA Should Display Unity

"It is disturbing that the PFP and the CP should try to label as election propaganda the foreign minister's revelation that the ANC is planning to disrupt the House of Assembly elections," opines Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 14 April in a page 24 editorial. "The cynical reaction of these politicians could be dismissed if national security were not such a serious matter." "Nothing satisfies the ANC and its masters more than the knowledge that South Africans are not united."

Mugabe 'Busy Making Enemies'

"Robert Mugabe's order of a squadron of Russian MIG-29's has been noted by this country," says a page 10 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 15 April. "The fact that these planes are a luxury Zimbabwe can ill afford reflects an irresponsibility similar to that of Al-Qadhdhafi." "Mugabe is busy making enemies. His hatred of South Africa is overwhelming, even though trade agreements between the two countries are to his advantage." He has "earned the wrath of Renamo" by committing Zimbabwean troops to fight in Mozambique. "He is still at odds with Joshua Nkomo's ZANU and the people of Matabeleland; he is also waging a psychological hate campaign against the politically aware whites in his own country. If Mugabe has blood on his hands and he cannot sleep at night, MIG-29's will not help him." "We fear his time is running out faster than he realizes."

CITY PRESS: Nation 'Total Police State'

"South Africa has now thrown all pretensions of being a democracy overboard and has finally been exposed as a total police state," says Johannesburg *City Press* in English on 19 April [date as published] in a page 2 editorial in reference to new restrictions on actions on behalf of detainees. "The time has now surely arrived for all South Africans to make up their minds: Whether to obey God or pander to the illegitimate and unjust fears of the National Party." "If this is an indication of the civilization they so often boast about when they denigrate the rest of Africa, they can take their brand of civilization back to Europe and leave us to our own brand of decency and care for the plight of fellow human beings."

19 Apr Press Review

MB190440[Editorial Report]

STAR: 'Who Cares' About Foreign Funding?
Noting that election campaigns often concentrate on so-called scandals, Harvey Tyson writes in his "Undercurrent Affairs" column on page 8 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 18 April: "Foreign funding seems to be the 'scandal' of the moment although it is difficult to see why. Why is it 'okay' to bring in foreign capital to plough up a nature reserve, but wrong to use it to spread enlightenment? Why is it wrong for the South African Council of Churches (SACC) to accept the money of concerned Europeans, but 'okay' for the National Party to take money from a European company selling favours? And, in the face of the historic challenges facing this country, who cares?"

U.S. Envoy Makes 'Politically Naive' Move
"Action by the Government late last week to put new curbs on protest against detention without trial was an unsurprising move in the pre-election political play. It is a pity Western nations did not resist the temptation to join in the protest. Their outspoken criticisms, while being fully justified as a reaction to further undemocratic action, were tactically rash," John Patten writes in his "The Independent" column on the same page. "For the United States ambassador, Mr Edward Perkins, to go so far as to attend a protest service in Cape Town and to issue a statement hitting at the Government from within the country may have won applause back home for bearding the lion in his den, but was a politically naive move when its effect on the Government and the white electorate is considered. What more blatant interference, as Nationalists would see it, in the domestic affairs of South Africa could there be than an American ambassador barging his way into South Africa's domestic election issues? It was a propaganda gift to the government." "Western protest at the tyrannically oppressive measures aimed at obstructing protest against unjust detention laws was admirable in principle, unwise in practice. If the West should choose to intervene further in election issues before May 6, then it must know such foreign intervention may cost the moderate opposition very dear. There are parliamentary seats at stake, and this is the moment to leave the PFP and its alliance partners to wage an energetic battle from within the country against the Government's oppression. The battle for justice must be fought at election time by South Africans alone. Foreigners, please keep out!"

DIE BURGER: Need To Be Alert Against ANC
"There can be no doubt about the ANC's self-declared aims of violence," Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 13 April comments in a page 10 editorial. "This is one of South Africa's greatest problems. That is why last week's warning from Foreign Minister Botha on the ANC's plans to disrupt the general election was not as inappropriate or thoughtless as certain opposition leaders and pro-PFP papers have alleged." "An important question these days is the degree to which the ANC can damage South Africa's security. Is it not much better to be alert for any eventuality in good time? Voters on 6 May will have the opportunity to make their own judgment."

DIE BURGER: Regulations Used as Propaganda Weapon
"There has been a great uproar in leftist circles over the new regulations prohibiting organized campaigns for the release of detainees," Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 14 April observes in a page 16 editorial. "It no longer matters that the broadened emergency measures are quite necessary. Each regulation is used locally and overseas as propaganda against South Africa. This should not be a permanent characteristic of South African life."

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Says Businessmen, RSA Plotting Coup

MB160856 Dakar PANA in English 0827 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Lusaka, 16 April (ZANA/PANA) — Zambian businessmen who have been conniving with South Africa in its campaign to overthrow the Zambian Government have been warned of stern action if they do not stop the dangerous game.

President Kaunda who revealed at a State House press conference that South Africa has been planning to overthrow his government by next month warned that he would put his foot down and deal with the sell-outs. He said some Zambian businessmen have been trooping to South Africa wining and dining with the racists and supporting the regime against the oppressed majority in that country.

President Kaunda also disclosed that South Africa which has tried to overthrow the Zambian Government several times had approached some young men in the army promising support and that the loyal ones have reported this to him.

He said stern measures aimed at controlling the situation were being worked out but did not announce them.

The president said he wondered how a Zambian who was poor 20 years ago could go to South Africa to wine and dine with the racists. He said some of the businessmen have become completely mandraxed and that they were criticising their own party.

Stressing that Zambia was one of the most politically stable countries in Africa, President Kaunda reiterated that he would fight apartheid as he fought colonialism in Zambia but I will die a clean man if this is my destiny.

Outlining Zambia's achievements in the political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and technological fields, the president stressed that he would always stand by the poor and defend the Zambian Constitution in accordance with law.

He challenged those against him to come forward and contest the presidential elections next year saying he was going to stand and seek re-election.

A number of Zambians from Lusaka are aiming at destabilising the country so that they can take over he said.

President Kaunda told the press conference that some rich Zambians wanted to overthrow the government because they have their eyes on the Chama oil which UNIP [United National Independence Party] and its partners have already worked on.

The idea is for them to turn round and blame the Kaunda government for having mismanaged the economy because at that time they will be thriving on the oil, President Kaunda said. Some of them have even talked of re-introducing a multiparty system but said no single defunct party had been named.

President Notes Savimbi Pledge on Benguela Railway

MB171222 Johannesburg International Service in English 1200 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia says the leader of the UNITA movement in Angola, Dr Jonas Savimbi, has given assurances that he will stop the sabotage of the Benguela railway. President Kaunda was speaking in Lusaka, where he announced that the Benguela railway was to be reopened within the next 6 months. He said Dr Savimbi had indicated that the line would not be destroyed as long as it was not used for military purposes. President Kaunda said the Angolan Government had for the sake of Zambia and Zaire agreed not to use the line for military purposes and there was therefore no need for further negotiations with the UNITA movement.

The Benguela railway has been closed because of UNITA activity for the last 12 years and it connects several countries in southern Africa to Angolan ports of Lobito and Benguela. It has been estimated that it will cost $280 million and will take 2 years to get the 1,300-km railway fully operational again.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives, Holds Talks With Kaunda

JN162104 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the members of his delegation visited Lusaka on 14 April en route to the Zimbabwean capital. He was received at Lusaka Airport by the Zambian president, Brother Dr Kenneth Kaunda, cabinet ministers, members of the Central Committee of the United National Independence Party, and the ambassadors of Arab and friendly states. Brother Abu 'Ammar saluted the Zambian masses, who gathered on the tarmac shouting slogans in support of the Zambian and Palestinian leaders and sang traditional songs.

Immediately upon arrival in Lusaka, Brother Abu 'Ammar and his party held official talks with His Excellency President Kaunda. The Palestinian side was represented by Brother Salamn al-Hirfi, Brother Dr Sami Musallam, and Brother 'Ali Nasir, the PLO ambassador in Lusaka.

Before the talks began, President Kaunda spoke to the local and international press. Addressing Abu 'Ammar, he declared: We welcome and salute you, our hero. You are our hero and we are fighting together for a just cause. You and your Palestinian people are struggling for a just cause. Your fight is cruel, long, and hard. We do not understand how the Jews, who were tormented and persecuted by Hitler's Nazism, could practice the same type of persecution against the Palestinians. Nor do we believe the solution will be a military one. We broke relations with Israel in 1973 over what it has done to the Arab states and the Palestinians. We will not renew our ties with Israel unless it recognizes the Palestinian people's rights to repatriation and an independent state, and also as long as it continues its occupation of Arab land. Our policy is based on principles.

Since you sent me a message on the situation in the camps, I have sent several notes to heads of state to help alleviate the pressure on the besieged camps. We pray to God to preserve these struggling people, who are living in the camps and are being subjected to the ugliest form of human suffering. Human suffering must be the responsibility of all mankind. Comrade 'Arafat, you are most welcome in your second home, Zambia.

At this point, Brother Abu 'Ammar, commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, spoke and thanked Comrade Kaunda for his warm speech and for Zambia's principled and firm stands under his leadership. He addressed him, saying: You are not only a great Zambian or African leader. You are an international figure from whom we draw courage and support. We also see you as a great world leader and symbol for all strugglers around the globe.

We are going through some very trying times. Our people in the occupied territories live through daily suffering under the yoke of occupation and face an enemy that expropriates territory, makes arrests, and violates the sanctity of Islamic and Christian holy places in the Holy Land, the land of peace, the land of Palestine, on a daily basis. You are fully aware of these Israeli practices and measures. South Africa is doing the same thing to you and to the Namibian and South African peoples as well. Our people in their camps in Lebanon are being subjected to a barbarous war.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: We are not against anyone. Palestine is a holy land. Hence, we have proposed the idea of a democratic state in which Jews, Muslims, and Christians can live together in fraternity and equality. We also proposed the idea of an international conference to help reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution. We greatly value the tremendous efforts you have made to help bring about the international conference, which seeks to establish the desired peace. I thank you for your hospitality and your firm and principled support of our people's just struggle.

Price of Cooking Oil Increases 12 Percent

MB161926 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] The ROP [Refined Oil Products of Zambia] has increased the price of cooking oil by about 12 percent with immediate effect. A survey carried out in Ndola revealed that the price of a 5-liter container has gone up from 42 kwacha to 47 kwacha, while that of 2.5 liters has gone up by 3 kwacha from 21 kwacha.

ZIMBABWE

President Seeks Better Equipment for Army

MB191202 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, has complimented the forces for their efforts in guarding the Beira corridor and removing the bandits menace in Matebeleland. Comrade Banana said the country's defense forces have also won the respect of Zimbabweans for serving the public in such activities as cleaning public places and raising funds for needy causes. The president, who is the commander in chief of forces, said government will try to procure more sophisticated and reliable defensive equipment for the army to enhance their professionalism, vigilance, and striking capability.

Comrade Banana said the escalating violence in Southern Africa makes it imperative that all progressive and peace-loving states improve their military capability to counter the enemy. The president said Zimbabwe would strongly defend itself whenever it is invaded. He said today's displays show the country's determination to defend itself in the event of an aggression against it.

On the Defense Forces Day, the Army, Air Force, and people's militias displayed their military hardware. More than 2,000 soldiers participated in the event, which took place along Samora Machel Avenue. Other displays were held in Bulawayo, Mutare, and Gweru.

ZANU-PF Says Multiparty State Required Until 1990

MB151216 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] A ZANU-PF Politburo member has said the Lancaster House constitutional provision requires Zimbabwe to remain a multiparty state until 1990. The secretary for administration, Comrade Maurice Nyagumbo, said this in an interview with the official organ of the ruling party, *The Zimbabwe News*. Comrade Nyagumbo, who is also the acting secretary for the Commissariat of Culture, explained that the bill of rights stipulates that all the 100 members of Parliament should vote in favor of a 1-party state. He added that this is not possible at present because of the 20 reserved seats for whites and other members from minority parties.

Nonaligned Committee on Palestine Continues Session

'Arafat, Mugabe Meet

JN162014 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpt] An official round of talks was held in Harare on the evening of 14 April between a Palestinian delegation led by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, and a Zimbabwean delegation headed by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. The discussions dealt with the Nonaligned Movement's role and the need to activate its efforts this year on behalf of an international conference. That gathering would be held under UN auspices and would be attended by the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties to the conflict. They also examined the dangers of repressive Zionist measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the Palestinian people's unbroken suffering, which is due to the occupation authorities' hostile policies, and the situation in the Palestinian camps, which have been subjected to siege, starvation, and collective homicide.

In addition, the Palestinian and Zimbabwean delegations studied the need to support the struggles launched by the African confrontation states to end apartheid and help contain the perils of racist cooperation between the Tel Aviv and South African regimes. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Delivers Speech

JN160906 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1825 GMT 15 Apr 87

["Text" of speech by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, to the 9-member nonaligned committee on Palestine in Harare on 14 April — read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Robert Mugabe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement and prime minister of friendly Zimbabwe; Your Excellency Brother Comrade Mayor of Harare; Your Excellencies Brother Ministers, members of the 9-member committee: Greetings of the revolution. I am pleased to address you, as brothers and comrades on the same road and also as genuine friends of our Palestinian people and their just cause. While meeting today on the soil of militant Zimbabwe, I am pleased to convey the best fraternal and revolutionary greetings, on behalf of our Palestinian Arab people, on behalf of my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my own name, to His Excellency Brother Robert Mugabe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement and prime minister of Zimbabwe, to his venerable government, and to his friendly people, expressing our great appreciation for hosting this meeting of the 9-member committee on Palestine. I am also pleased to send best wishes to their excellencies the ministers, members of the committee, who represent the fraternal and friendly states that have always stood by their noble positions in support of all fighters and honorable and free people in the world along with our Palestinian people's free men and revolutionaries.

I take this opportunity to express our people's great appreciation for the firm and principled stands of support taken by your friendly and fraternal countries, and by the other states of our movement, the Nonaligned Movement, on the side of our just Palestinian cause and our people's legitimate struggle to liberate their occupied land and regain their inalienable national rights, including those of repatriation, self-determination, and an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

It is a great honor for the 9-member committee on Palestine to be meeting on Zimbabwean soil, the land of strugglers and heroes who fight against the racist apartheid regime, who sacrificed, and who continued their fight until they won, with their solid revolutionary will, their freedom, independence, and sovereignty under the leadership of Brother Struggler Prime Minister Comrade Robert Mugabe. Our presence on Zimbabwean soil for this session of the 9-member committee, which belongs to our movement, the Nonaligned Movement, fills our souls with hope of a victory in the near future for our people, who are fighting for freedom and independence.

Dear Brothers: Our Palestinian Arab people today face some very difficult circumstances inside our occupied Palestinian territory as a result of a systematic imperialist-Zionist scheme designed to impose capitulation on our people and liquidate our national cause at the expense of our inalienable national rights. Our people are facing the iron-fist policy implemented by the enemy government. This policy is reflected by the escalating campaigns of repression, persecution, and official terrorism, as well as the confiscation of land and water resources, the closing of universities and schools, mass arrests, and the expulsion of leaders and cadres outside our occupied homeland. All this is in addition to the construction of Zionist settlements on our land, which is similar to what previously happened in Zimbabwe and to what is now taking place in Namibia and South Africa. These settlements represent military fortifications of terrorist settler gangs such as those of Kahane, Levinger, and Sharon, which attack our cities, villages, and camps, as well as our Islamic and Christian holy places. They do so with the goal of terrorizing our people in order to drive them off their land and away from their property.

Our people are facing this systematic state tyranny, oppression, and terrorism with firmness, strength, and faith through their glorious popular uprising. The Israeli police and Army support and cooperate with these gangs and give them protection to implement Israel's policy of fully annexing the occupied Palestinian territories.

However, all this has increased our people's determination and insistence on continuing the policy of liberating their land from the invaders and occupiers through all forms of political, popular, military, diplomatic, cultural, and scientific struggle. Our occupied territory has seen the longest and most important popular uprising, which includes towns, villages, and camps and all sectors of our people, who express great popular unity behind the PLO.

Our masses recently joined this uprising and spread it to every corner of our occupied territory, in Gaza, the West Bank, and the land occupied in 1948, in support of our people's steadfastness in the Lebanese camps and as a way of backing our detainees and prisoners in Israeli enemy jails, where hundreds have been killed or wounded by the bullets of the Israeli Army and Zionist settlers.

While facing this systematic state terrorism in their occupied territory, our people now face a new link in the plots against them. An ugly conspiracy is being perpetrated against our people and camps in Lebanon. These camps, which house our children, women, and kinfolk, have been exposed to savage, inhuman aggression for 6 months. In southern Lebanon the Amal gangs, with Israeli Air Force, Navy, and artillery participation, are attacking and besieging our camps. The Israeli Navy is blockading the shores of Lebanon to prevent food and medicine from reaching the camps.

In Beirut, our camps in Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al- Barajinah are being exposed to similar acts of aggression and blockades imposed by the Amal Movement gangs with the involvement and backing of an Arab state, which, regrettably, belongs to the Nonaligned Movement. The aim of this plot is to strike at the PLO, wipe out our camps in Lebanon, and expel half a million Palestinians, as they are an insurmountable barrier in the way of those seeking to imlement the plot of establishing sectarian cantons in Lebanon and dividing Lebanon's land and people into sectarian statelets. These are similar to the bantustans that the racist Pretoria regime is creating in Southern Africa to pave the way for the region's balkanization.

The PLO will fight beside the fraternal Lebanese people to maintain the unity of their land, people, and institutions. They will help them preserve their security, stability, and independence. These attacks on our presence in Lebanon include all our camps there. The camps of Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah were the scene of horrible massacres committed by the Zionists and their agents in September 1982 following the Palestinian forces' evacuation from Beirut. These massacres and acts of aggression continued against Sabra, Shatila, and other Palestinian camps. However, regrettably, these attacks and massacres are now the work of Arab hands.

The latest of these aggressions and massacres have been called the war of the camps, which has gone on for 6 months. An Arab blockade has been imposed on our camps to starve our people, deprive them of water and medicine, and force them to surrender. This siege began when the aggressors failed to storm these camps to implement their plot against our masses and people and against the entire Palestinian presence in Lebanon. Their objective was the expulsion of half a million Palestinians from Lebanon. Where will they go? To the unknown, to hell. No one cares about them or their fate and future.

In view of this violence against our camps, the United States declared a state of alert among its fleets off Lebanon in a sudden show of force. It ended this state of alert in another move — no less sudden than the announcement of the state of alert — in connection with the hostages held by certain organizations. Soon after this, the Syrians intervened in West Beirut, using one division, on the pretext of maintaining law and order there. Yet, the attacks and blockades against our camps continued, as though Palestinians do not deserve security.

We issued continuous appeals to our friends and brothers. The chairman of our movement, the Nonaligned Movement, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, made an appeal on this. Resolutions and appeals were passed by the OAU, the UN Security Council, the ICO, and, most recently, by the Arab League.

Given these good efforts by our friends and brothers, the Syrian forces agreed to allow trucks loaded with food from Arab contributors to pass to our beleaguered people. We must still bring medicine, water, and fuel into the camps, end the siege around them, and stop the war of annihilation against our women, children, and masses.

Based on this, I ordered our representative to request a postponement of the Security Council session to facilitate the UN secretary general's efforts, to allow international aid organizations and the Red Cross to continue their activities in these camps, rebuild them, and bring life back to them, either through these international bodies, the UN forces in southern Lebanon, or the Arab Deterrent Forces, which had a mandate from the Arab League in the past.

Mr Chairman, respected ministers, under the extremely harsh conditions through which our Arab Palestinian people are now passing, we are certain our meeting today will seriously consider these facts and adopt resolutions reflecting the principles of our pioneering movement, the Nonaligned Movement, and successive nonaligned summits.

We are certain this session will reaffirm the Nonaligned Movement's backing for our people's struggle under the PLO and for the restoration of their inalienable rights, including those of repatriation, self-determination, and an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr Chairman, brothers, and comrades, despite the pain and suffering imposed on our people and the gravity of the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies against our people and national cause, they are enduring sacrifice, suffering, and pain with the will of revolutionaries and freedom fighters.

Our people are writing epics of heroism and steadfastness, offering thousands of martyrs on the difficult road of the revolution, and declaring to the entire world their firm insistence on their inalienable national rights.

As you know, we will hold the 18th PNC session in fraternal Algeria in a few days. This meeting will follow a series of large-scale dialogues among the various Palestinian factions to secure the broadest Palestinian participation in the PLO. This is a practice we have always followed in affirmation of democratic methods in the Palestinian arena, a democracy of which we are proud. It strengthens our unity with the people, and with our institutions and popular and military forces. It is the impregnable fortress on which all plots of those hostile to our people and revolution will founder.

President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian people had a great role to play in strengthening our national unity. President Bendjedid was kind enough to host our PNC session in fraternal Algeria this month.

Brother ministers, we tell you once more that there can be no just, firm, and permanent peace in the Middle East unless our people regain their inalienable rights, including those of repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state. We, the PLO, believe — and we have said this more than once — that the most suitable means of attaining this is through an international conference in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution (38-53C) under UN auspices and with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and the other parties concerned, including the PLO, on an equal footing.

We feel such a gathering must be effective, useful, and based on UN resolutions. We reject all attempts to make it a sham umbrella or false witness to win acceptance for separate and suspect solutions.

Our Nonaligned Movement is urged now as never before to promote this issue in all directions, as there is today a ready opportunity to hold an international conference, which is supported by resolutions of the Harare summit, the ICO, the UN General Assembly, and the Arab summits. In their recent statement, the EC countries approved the idea and reiterated the Venice Declaration, which stressed the Palestinian people's self-determination and PLO participation.

Moreover, all the socialist states back it, led by the friendly USSR whose leader, Gorbachev, announced an initiative on this with President Mitterrand last summer. Friendly China also took the same firm position.

For the first time, the U.S. Administration has started talking about an international conference in general. The Israeli leadership has been split over this issue, also a first, although it has has its own ideas about an international conference. All this is coupled with active moves in all directions.

The complete harmony of the unanimous global move in favor of an international conference places major responsibilities on our movement, the Nonaligned Movement, and our committee. This is due to the fact that an international conference has become one of the basic pillars in international politics. As I told you, we do not want an international umbrella for the conclusion of suspicious solutions that would pose dangers to our people, cause, and interests, in other words, some sort of show to satisfy the world public, which is now convinced that an international conference must be held as an important way of attaining a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and solving the Palestine question, thus ending our suffering and tragedy.

Our people inside and outside the occupied territory have suffered for 40 years since the division of Palestine in 1947. Some 60 percent of our people have been expelled from their country. The others are still suppressed by the might and terrorism of Israel's military occupation and are subjected to siege, death, and starvation in our camps in Lebanon.

Therefore, our people consider you as true friends. Our people have confidence in you and appreciate your efforts and support on all levels. Your movement in line with a special integrated plan this year will set the course and do much to help us meet the challenges. This calls for hard work on the highest international levels, be it through direct contacts by committee members or through the United Nations and the Security Council. After all, the proposed conference will be under UN auspices.

Our movement has prestige, influence, and power in the General Assembly and even in the Security Council, despite the right of veto enjoyed by some permanent members of the Council, which may be used, as it has several times in the past, against the Palestinian people's just cause.

This year's moves are very important, as the positions of most parties have taken definite shape. Therefore, I ask my brother Robert Mugabe to issue his kind instructions so we may consider our committee an open session this year to deal with all developments and changes. At the same time, you may consider another approach to promote the conference before we miss the opportunity as a result of various possible changes internationally.

Brother Chairman, brother members, from the soil of militant Zimbabwe, I would like to reiterate our firm and steady support for the African peoples' struggle against social and economic problems, particularly the qustions of development, desertification, drought, and interest on foreign loans, in addition to their heroic confrontation of the racist regime's apartheid system and its savage attacks against Africa's confrontation states and the Namibian and South African peoples.

We declare our absolute support for the African confrontation states, for SWAPO, for the African liberation movement in South Africa, and for its just national goals, which include independence and an end to the yoke of colonialism and racist apartheid.

We place our modest capabilities at the disposal of these two organizations against the racist regime of Pretoria. At the same time, we condemn the racist policies adopted and implemented by the Pretoria regime and denounce its repeated and continued attacks on the region's peoples.

We also denounce the aid this regime receives from abroad. While we do not find it strange that this regime obtains assistance from its twin, the racist Zionist-Israeli regime, we do think it odd that it also gets help from some countries that claim to reject racism or call for the preservation of human rights.

From this rostrum, as I did from the Harare summit, I say: It is enough for the Iraq-Iran war to last 7 years. I appeal to the Iranian leadership to accept all peace initiatives proposed to it, which were agreed to by the brothers in Iraq.

Concluding, I reiterate my profound thanks and appreciation to the host country, Zimbabwe — president, government, and people — for hosting the meeting of our committee, the 9-member committee. I wish your meeting success in its work. Revolution until victory. Thank you.

'Arafat Comments, Departs

MB151826 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the PLO, Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, says for the first time there is now a general consensus in favor of an international peace conference on the Middle East. Comrade 'Arafat was speaking at a news conference in Harare today. He said he would like to see the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, and all the parties involved in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO, participating in the proposed conference. Chairman 'Arafat said the current meeting in Harare of the 9-member Nonaligned Special Committee on Palestine set a strong platform for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Comrade Yasir 'Arafat left Harare today after attending a 3-day meeting of the foreign ministers of the 9-member Nonaligned Special Committee on Palestine. He was seen off at Harare Airport by the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, cabinet ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Indian Minister's Statement

BK161539 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1502 GMT 16 Apr 87

["Statement" by Indian Minister of External Affairs N. D. Tiwari in Harare on 15 April on behalf of the foreign ministers at the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Committee of Nine on Palestine]

[Text] Mr Chairman, distinguished foreign ministers and leaders of delegations, ladies and gentlemen,

I am indeed deeply honoured to have been given this privilege of performing this pleasant duty on behalf of this small, but shall I say, highly select group of colleagues.

Historic eighth summit of non aligned countries was held in this beautiful city, last September. Summit was a resounding success, due largely to skillful, firm and yet gentle stewardship of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, excellent arrangement made by Government of Zimbabwe and spontaneous welcome extended to delegates by people of this brave country. During last two days, I have been a personal witness to similar and equally warm welcome that Zimbabwe has extended to all of us.

First ministerial meeting of NAM [Nonaligned Movement] Committee of Nine on Palestine has just ended on a successful note. Inspiring address of His Excellency Prime Minister Mugabe, chairman of movement, and impassioned declaration of His Excellency Chairman 'Arafat have served as our guideposts. We have adopted a short but crisp and constructive document that would form basis of future efforts by our committee, as well as Non Aligned Movement, in achieving the goal, set for us by our heads of government last year, at contributing to convening of international peace conference on Middle East. Representing, as we do, more than 100 states, which include many of those directly affected or involved in searching for durable and just solution to Middle East conflict, I have no doubt that results of our deliberations over last two days will find a responsive chord in hearts and minds of all those who have power and influence to make idea of this international peace conference a reality.

Mr Chairman, so many lives have been lost over last four decades in wake of this conflict in Middle East and much damage has been inflicted upon region. People in this entire region deserve a better fate in full freedom and a secure future. For this to happen, love for humanity should transcend narrow, selfish and parochial interests. This may sound like a cliche. But I believe it is a cliche which needs to be reiterated until it is brought home to international community.

Non Aligned Movement, Mr Chairman, does not seek confirmation. As its chosen hand, Committee of Nine is available and willing to assist in bringing about enduring peace in Middle East, a peace that would ensure complete restoration of inalienable rights of Palestinian people, including their own homeland and state, a peace that will enable all states in region, including state of Palestine, to live in amity and within secure borders and a peace that will restore region to its former glory.

Chairman, if our committee has successfully and effectively completed current phase of work assigned to us by entire movement, it is mainly due to your wise guidance, your bonhomie and your ability to achieve a consensus acceptable to all. For this, Mr Chairman, I add my personal sense of appreciation, to heartfelt thanks, which I stand here to convey to you, on behalf of all my colleagues present here. May I also ask you, Mr Minister, to convey to people and Government of Zimbabwe our gratitude for warm and friendly hospitality provided to us all.

Peace Plan Adopted

MB151835 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The 9-member Nonaligned Special Committee on Palestine meeting in Harare has adopted a 6-point plan aimed at urgently convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. The plan requires the deep involvement of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council under whose auspices the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] believes the conference should be held.

The NAM foreign ministers' meeting was opened yesterday by the prime minister and NAM chairman, Comrade Robert Mugabe. The declaration adopted by the committee of nine today says action must be taken to invite the members of the Security Council, following the presentation of the report of the secretary general of the United Nations on the Middle East due this month, to assess the prospects of convening the conference. The declaration also requests the NAM chairman to consult member-countries directly concerned with the convening of the conference in particular Syria, Egypt, and Jordan, in order to continue coordination and increased effort for the promotion of the conference.

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT — Contents unchanged

VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT — Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include:

- International Affairs
- Inter-African Affairs
- Central Africa
    - Burundi
    - Cameroon
    - Central African Republic
    - Congo
    - Equatorial Guinea
    - Gabon
    - Rwanda
    - Sao Tome & Principe
    - Zaire
- East Africa
    - Djibouti
    - Ethiopia
    - Kenya
    - Somalia
    - Tanzania
    - Uganda
- Indian Ocean
    - Comoros
    - Madagascar
    - Mauritius
    - Seychelles
- Southern Africa
    - Angola
    - Botswana
    - Lesotho
    - Malawi
    - Mozambique
    - Namibia
    - Republic of South Africa
    - Reunion
    - Swaziland
    - Zambia
    - Zimbabwe
- Western Africa
    - Benin
    - Burkina Faso
    - Cape Verde Islands
    - The Gambia
    - Ghana
    - Guinea
    - Guinea-Bissau
    - Ivory Coast
    - Liberia
    - Mali
    - Niger
    - Nigeria
    - Senegal
    - Sierra Leone
    - Togo

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